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A Copy of a letter from the Secretary
of State to the Governor enclosing the
Commission. —

Department of State
Washington 6th

Sir,

I have the honor to enclose to your Excellency a Commission of the Eighteenth Section of this present Congress of the United States appointing you a Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States.

I have the honor to be
Sir
your most obt. Servt.
Timothy Pickering

(Seal)

His Excellency
Governor Tyler

The following is a Copy of a Commission from
Thomas Jefferson (Pres
of the United States of America)

To all who shall see these presents Greeting
Know ye, That reposing special trust and
confidence in the Integrity, Wisdom and
Attachment to the Constitution of the United States
which are requisite

[redacted] duties of
Office according to Law, [redacted] and to hold
the said Office, with all the Privileges and
Emoluments to the same of right appertaining, for
the term of three years from the day of the date hereof.
unless the President of the United States for the time
being should be pleased sooner to revoke and determine
this Commission.

In Testimony whereof, I have
caused these Letters to be made Patent, and the Seal
of the United States to be hereunto affixed.

Given under my Hand, at the City of
Washington, the Twenty Sixth day of January
in the year of our Lord, one thousand Eight Hundred
and two; and of the Independence of the United
States of America the Twenty Sixth.

(Signed) Th: Jefferson

By the President.

(Signed) James Madison Secretary of State

A Copy of a Letter from the Governor to the
Secretary of State.—

N. A. Town of Washington June 1st 1802

Sir, I have the honor to acknowledge the
receipt of your [illegible] of the 8th of May, enclosing
the Commission of Nathaniel Cox Esquire
to be Marshal of the District of Tennessee for the

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Senate's congratulations on my [illegible]
I am gratified with this
addition to the many Countrys confide
and it will not fail to excite my best en
to execute with propriety the trust reposed
me.

I am Sir
Very respectfully
Your hum: obt. Hble Ser
Wm C. C. Claiborne

(Signed)

The Honble
The Secretary of State
for the United States

A Copy of a Letter from Thomas
Jefferson, President of the United Sta
to the Governor of the M. T.
enclosing his answer to an address
from the House of Representatives of
the M. Territory to him; with a co
of that answer; & a copy of a let
from the Governor of the Sd Territory
the President in answer to the above
mentioned.

Washington March 3d 180

Dear Sir, The House of Representa
of the Missisippi Territory having
through your hands the address
were pleased to present to me, Sensi

"[illegible] Mississippi. His
"answer through the same channel,
"and to add [illegible] of my
"friendly respect & high consideration.
"Th. Jefferson

"His Excellency
"W. C. C. Claiborne
"Governor of the M. T."

"To the House of Representatives of the
"Mississippi Territory:

"Gentlemen,

"I receive with Great pleas-
"=ure the Address of your honourable
"house of the 20th of January, & thank
"you for the Sentiments of affection, of
"approbation, & of confidence which it
"expresses.

"The interesting portion of our
"country which you occupy, is worthy the
"fostering care of the General Government
"impressed with a full sense of the
"duties I owe to your Situation, I shall
"not fail to fulfil them with Solicitude
"& fidelity.

"With local advantages so distinguished,
"a fertile soil, genial climate, and free-

cious production, the day cannot be
"distant, when, strong in population, and
"rich in resources, you will, by the addi
"of your eighth star, amply retribu
"to your sister States, the care & protection
"under which you will have been nurt
"nor shall we doubt your assistance
"fortifying in our minds a strict adh
"to the Constitution, and to those Re
"= publican principles which the patriot
"heroes of '76 established & consecrat

"I pray you to be assured of my
"fervent wishes for your Safety & prosper
"& to accept the homage of my high
"respect & consideration.

"Th: Jefferson
"April 3d 1802."

"Mississippi Territory
"Town of Washington, June 1st

"Dear Sir,

"On last evening I received
"your letter of the third of April, enclosing yo
"answer to an address from the House of
"Representatives of this Territory, and
"which I shall with great pleasure, for
"to the Speaker of that body

"With assurances of my respect

"respect I have the honor to subscribe
"myself, Sir, your faithful friend,
"& most obed. Hble Servt

(Signed) "William C. C. Claiborne

"His Excellency
"Thomas Jefferson
"President of the United States."

A letter from the Governor to Mr.
James Sewall, of Pinckneyville

"Town of Washington, June 2d 1802.

"Sir, I have understood that you have
"lately returned from the Spanish settle-
"-ments, and that your family are not
"entirely free from the contagion of the
"Small Pox: If this is the case, I hope
"you will immediately remove the person
"or persons in your family affected, with-
"-out the Town of Pinckneyville, to some
"retired Situation, & that every precaution
"will be taken by you, to prevent the
"spreading of the disease. This is your
"duty as a good citizen, & I rejoice as

strict performance.

"There is a law of the Territory entitled
"an act to prevent the importation and
"spreading of the Small pox", which pun-
"ishes with fine & imprisonment any person who
"shall wilfully introduce the Small pox
"into our Settlement. The general good
"dictated the passage of this law; and
"suggests, also, the propriety of rigidly
"enforcing it.

"With respect
"I am, Sir,
"Yr Obt. Servt

"Signed" "William B. B. Blackburne.

"James Scurlock."

A Warrant in favour of
Edward Turner for 36 da
on the Treasurer General f
certain Services rendered.

"To Abner Green Esqr. Treasur
"General of the Mississippi
"Territory:

"You will pay to Edward Tu
"out of any monies which may be

"The Treasurer thereby being
"the amount of the [illegible] allowed
"him by me for [illegible] several
"manuscript copies [illegible] transcribed
"at the late Session of the Legislature;
"and for so doing, this instrument
"of writing shall be your sufficient
"warrant.

"Given under my hand & Seal
at the Town of Washington, this
2d day of June, A. D. 1802.

(Signed) "William C. C. Claiborne."

"Near Natchez, June 4th 1802

"Sir, Your Communications of the 25th
"of April and 20th of May have been
"received; and I thank you for the prompt-
"-itude with which you commenced
"an enquiry relative to the killing of the
"Fitzgeralds negroe. It is important
"that the murderer should be known, &
"I hope you will endeavour to procure
"such information as will enable you
"to state to me with certainty the name
"of the fellow who committed the murder
"& the Town to which he belongs.

"I am inclined to think that the

"tale of the Indians, who says he was
"stabbed in the breast by a white m
"without any previous quarrel, is n
"correct. It is most likely to have b
"the result of a drunken frolick, i
"which another man might, probab
"have been a party.

"The citizens of Natchez and its vi
"are not at this time, as much embar
"with Indian visits as formerly. Of
"several of these vagabond fellows, wi
"their families, who had become so trou
"=blesome, have retired from our Settle
"=ments: but many others still remain
"greatly to the disturbance of the good
"people of this Territory. I wish that
"this great inconvenience could be r
"=moved. I think with you, that the
"people of Natchez are themselves much
"in fault, and I shall endeavour to pu
"a stop to the practices which you all
"do. But it will still be advisable f
"you to impress upon the minds of the
"Chactaw Chiefs the propriety of their
"restraining some of their people from
"making such frequent, unnecessary
"& lengthy visits to this Territory.

"The talk I mentioned to you in
"a late letter, is now in Natchez.

"I expect [illegible] to
"hear from [illegible] ear, upon
"the subject of [illegible] But if in the
"meantime the [illegible] before
"sending [illegible] for the Choc-
"-taws annuity, should it arrive, I shall
"commit to his care apart, and
"probably the whole, of the funds to be
"distributed under your direction.

"In a letter from the Secretary at
"War, dated on the 23rd of February (a
"copy of which is herewith enclosed for
"your information and instruction) I am
"directed "to consider myself as having
"the superintendance of all business
"relating to the Indians within this
"Territory"; and in future, all such
"Sub agents as may be appointed by the
"President, to reside among the Indian
"Nations, are directed to correspond with
"the Governor of the Territory, in which
"they may be placed, and communicate
"generally with the department of war,
"thro' that channel; and to conduct
"themselves under the General direction
"of the Governor." In consequence of
"this new regulation, the general Superin-
"-tendence of the Chactaw Nation, devolves
"upon me, and I promise myself great
"assistance from your faithful and able
"co-operation.

"I am by order from the Secretary of
"your duty to furnish him with a detailed
"report which is directed to be made
"in every three months; I will thank
"to forward to me, at the earliest, com
"= ment proved: it will accompany
"with the present state of your agen
"and of the Chactaw nation; & I shall
"then be the better enabled to form
"the views of the Government.

"With assurances of great res
"teem, "I am, Sir, &c

"William C. C. Claiborne.

"P. S. I have sent you, in a Separate
"packett, a news paper, which contains a
"copy of the late act to regulate trade
"& intercourse with the indian tribes, a
"to preserve peace on the frontiers.

"Colo. John McKee

"Agent in the Chactaws"

A Letter from the Governor to the Secretary
"Natchez, 10th June 1802

"Sir, "Three Hogsheads & three Boxes of
"Ironmongery, marked "U. States, Chact
"Nation" being the same which I have
"mentioned in Several of my late Letters
"have arrived at Natchez. The freight
"charges on these goods, as will appear

"the warrant [illegible] to
"one hundred [illegible] for
"which Sum I [illegible] my drawn
"on Bill upon you [illegible] at five days
"Sight to Saml. Postlewait Esq.r or order
"with great respect
"Sir, Your
"Most Obt. Servt
"William C. C. Claiborne"
"The Honble: H. Dearborn
"The Secretary at War"

June 12th 1802

The Governor issued a warrant upon the Treasurer for fifty two dollars in favour of James Patton, being the Sum due him for his Services as a marker of the road from the national boundary line, to the town of Natchez as appeared by an account which he rendered, and a certificate Signed by Hugh Davis & John Collins, two of the Commissioners for laying out said road.

"Gentlemen Officers of the first
"Regiment of Militia,

"I avail myself of this opportunity
"to offer you my congratulations, on y
"entering upon the duties of your ho
"- Sout honourable appointments, and
"to express my entire confidence in y
"exertions to merit the trusts respectively
"committed to you.

"The importance of a well regula
"Well armed Militia to the Safety
"this Territory, must be fully impressed
"upon every reflecting mind; and that
"every good citizen will unite cordia
"in effecting an object so essential t
"the general good, I will not for a mom
"permit myself to doubt.

"To render our Militia a safe an
"- part of defence, order, regularity, and
"a proper degree of military discipline
"must be introduced. In their practi
"- lars you will readily perceive the reas
"to which you are referred, greatly d

"zeal & industry of the officers, the
"docility & obedience of the privates, &
"labour all, upon the patriotism of this
"community. I persuade myself that
"the time is not distant, when every
"citizen of this Territory, will be a
"Soldier, & prepared on all occasions,
"to defend with his life, his country,
"her government & laws.

"William C. C. Claiborne"

A copy of a letter from William
McCormick, & the Governors answer.

"Natchez 22d June 1802.

"Dear Sir,

"Inclosed is the account of
"disbursements I have made for the small
"pox hospital Say Dollr 114 6/100 Dr
"I would request you
"to annex your certificate to
"the account.

"Pardon my troubling you at
"this time. I should not have so
"immediately done it, but a gentleman
"to whom I am to pay money has an
"arrangement to make with the

Treasurer, and this receipt can not
come in as so much cash.

"With Sentiments of great respect
"I remain Sir your most Obed.t Servt
"Wm. T. M.c Cormick
"Wm. Excell.y
"William C. C. Claiborne
"Governor of the M.y"

"June 22.d 1802

"Dear Sir

"I have enclosed you a warra
"upon the Treasurer for the amount of
"your Bill.

"I take this occasion to acknowl
"my obligations to you, for the care &
"humanity which marked your attent
"to the hospital company, & to assure y
"of any respect & regard.

"William C. C. Claibo
"Mr. J. M.c Cormick Esqr."

"By William C. C. Claiborne
"Governor of the Mississippi Territory
"To all who shall See these presents,
"Greeting;

"Whereas at a Supreme
"Court of Law held in & for the County
"of Adams in the Territory aforesaid,
"on the Second monday in October in
"the year 1800, present the honorable
"Seth Lewis, chief Justice of the
"Said Territory, & the honorable Peter
"Bryan Bruin, Second Judge thereof
"then & there possessing authority to hold
"said Court & to hear & determine all
"manner of felonies & other crimes &
"misdemeanors committed against the
"peace & dignity of the United States
"& of this Territory, and of the laws

"thereof within the [redacted] Territory
"And Whereas the Jurors of the
"said United States in and for the
"County of Adams, then & there atten
"the Supreme Court aforementioned
"being duly Sworn on their oaths di
"present that George Rafalje late
"the said County on the 13th day
"September in the year 1865 at the
"County of Adams in & upon the bo
"of a certain John Colby then & there
"being, an assault did make; and th
"he the said Rafalje with a certain
"dagger which he then & there held
"said John Colby feloniously, wilfully
"of his malice aforethought did Str
"& thrust, giving to the said John Co
"with the dagger aforesaid one mort
"wound of which the said John Co
"then & there instantly died, whe
"upon the Jurors aforesaid, upon
"their oaths aforesaid did Say that
"the said George Rafalje the said
"John Colby in manner & form afo
"said, feloniously, wilfully, & of his
"malice aforethought did kill &
"murder, against the Statute in that

[redacted] gain
"the peace [redacted] &c
"State of [redacted]
"Great [redacted] Said
"George Rafalje being thereupon ar=
"=raigned & having pleaded that he was
"not guilty: issue was then joined in due
"form of law, & thereupon came a Jury
"of good & lawful men who being elected
"& Sworn the truth to say, and upon the
"premises aforesaid, upon their oaths
"did Say that "The prisoner is not guilty
"of the murder aforesaid, as above
"charged upon him, but that the Said
"George Rafalje is guilty of the felonious
"Slaying of the aforesaid John Gatty
"all which will more fully appear
"reference being had to the proceedings
"in this case yet remaining of record
"among the Rolls & Records of the aforesaid
"Court.

"And Whereas a petition Signed
"by a great number of very respectable
"inhabetants of this Territory has been
"presented to me, recommending the Said
"George Rafalje as an object of mercy &
"praying for a pardon in his behalf.

"Now Therefore Know Ye that
"having considered the prayer of the
"aforesaid petitioners, I have thought

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"pardon to the said George Rafalje the said
"Rafalje by virtue of the
"authority in me vested as governor
"of the aforesaid Territory, do by these
"presents pardon & consign to oblivion
"the offence aforesaid, whereof the said
"George Rafalje stands convicted as
"aforesaid: Provided nevertheless
"and be it remembered, that
"these pardons are granted upon the
"following express conditions, to wit,
"That "Before the said George Rafalje
"shall be allowed to take benefit of
"these presents, he the said George shall
"before the Judges of the Superior Court
"of Law for the District of Adams in
"open Court, as or before one of the
"Judges of the same out of Term, be
"bound in a Recognizance to the Governor
"of the Mississippi Territory and his
"Successors in office, himself the said
"George Rafalje in the Sum of two
"thousand dollars, and two sufficient
"Securities in the Sum of five hundred
"dollars each, with condition that the
"said George Rafalje shall keep the
"peace, and be of good behaviour

"Louisiana [redacted] this
"Territory, and all [redacted] therein,
"for and [redacted] of five
"years, to begin [redacted] date, from
"the day of the date of these presents:
"Provided also, and the true intent
"& meaning hereof is, that if within
"the aforesaid term of five years the
"said George shall commit any breach
"of the condition of these presents, or
"of the condition of the recognizance
"hereby required, then this pardon
"shall cease & be utterly null & void
"to all intents & purposes.

"Given under my hand and the
"Seal of the Territory at the Town of
"Washington on the 22d day of June, in
"the year of our Lord, one thousand
"eight hundred & two.

"William C. C. Claiborne"

Copy of a letter from Wm. E. Hulings
and the Governors answer.

"New Orleans, 12th June 1802.

"Sir, The goods mentioned in the inclosed
"letter & bill of lading have arrived. I
"have entered them for debenture, except

soon as [illegible] land, shall store [illegible]
"until I receive your commands.

"Permit me to offer you my Ser
"ces, which [illegible] may contribute to the pu
"good, or to your personal interest, and
"to assure you of my respects.

"I am
"Sir
"Yr. mo: obt. Servt.
"Wm. C. Hilliard
"His Excelly
"Governor Claiborne."

"Natchez, June 26th 1802.

"Sir, "your letter of the 12th Inst.
"together with its enclosures, have been
"received.

"I will take early measures to
"transport the goods mentioned in the
"[illegible] leading to Natchez; and in the mean
"time I am pleased that they are comm
"to your care.

"I shall occasionally avail myself
"of your good offices at Orleans, and
"pray you to be assured of the pleasure
"with which I shall render you any Ser
"vice in my power."

"William C. C. Claiborne

"The Honble.

"Wm. E. Hulings"

*Memorandum, the goods mentioned in the bill of lading, were five hundred rifle guns, packed in forty nine chests.

Copy of a letter from the Governor to Colo. McKee.

"Near Natchez, June 29th 1812.

"Dear Sir "The bearer Andrew Bracken "a citizen of the U. States, visits the Chic- "=taw Nation, in order to recover some "horses and other property of which he "was robbed by a party of Indians (supposed "to be Chactaws) on the road leading from "Tennessee to this Territory.

"You will be pleased to give Mr. "Bracken all the assistance in your "power & if it should appear that the Robbery was committed by Chactaws

"Oregon Territories, & the
"the [illegible] necessity of immediately
"the offenders.

"This is the first outrage since the
"Treaty at Fort Laramie, and if the Chiefs
"Should cause the offenders to be severely
"punished, it will probably be the last
"act of this nature. Should the
"murderers, it will invite others, and no
"traveller will have any security.

"The papers enclosed, which is a true
"copy of an original deposition, now on
"file in my office, will show you the
"amount of the Brackens loss, and also
"a letter particularly the property taken
"Will you present to the Chiefs my
"best wishes, & assure them of my great
"solicitude for the happiness & prosperity
"the Cheyenne nation.

"I have the honor to be
"Your Obt. Servt
"Wm. Sublette
"Wm. B. B. Carter
"Robt. Johnson
"Agent for the U. S. in the Cheyenne
"nation."

[illegible] 26th [illegible]

"Sir,

"I have the honor to acknowledge
"the receipt of your Excellency's letter of the
"Seventh ultimo, together with copies of
"the correspondence relative to the goods for
"the Choctaw Indians; enclosed you will
"receive a copy of the Invoice of these goods
"as shipped from Philadelphia in October
"1800.

"As soon as Mr. Dinsmoor (the agent
"to the Choctaws) shall arrive in the nation
"you will please to take measures in
"conjunction with him, to have these goods
"delivered as originally intended. The expen-
"ses incurred will be paid on your draft
"being presented at this Department.

"Please to accept my thanks for your
"prompt attention to this business, and
"am with great respect

"Yr. Excellency's

"Mo. obt. Servant

"H. Dearborn

"His Excellency

"William C. C. Claiborne"

"[redacted] 2[illegible]

"[redacted] your letter of the
"24th ultimo, covering an invoice &c
"certain Indian goods, which were shi
"from Philadelphia in October 1800. T
"goods are now at Natchez, and shall
"forwarded with care to the Choctaw
"soon as I learn of Mr Dinsmore's a
"in the Nation.

"It is expedient to carry into effe
"at an early period, the 3d article of
"late Treaty between the U. States a
"the Choctaw nation, which provides th
"the line of demarcation which was fi
"ly established between the officers of
"Britannic Majesty, and the Choctaw
"nation, which runs in a parallel di
"tion with the Mississippi river, and
"eastward thereof shall be retraced &
"plainly marked. The participation
"of this line in its whole extent is bot
"known, and the interest of both part
"requires that it should be ascertained
"with certainty.

"On the 14th of this month, a man
"the name of Brachin
"who was removing with his family to
"Natchez, was robbed of several horses
"their property by a party of Indians (sup
"to be Choctaws) on the road leading fro

"Jackson [illegible] this
"morning I depart[illegible] to the
"nation with [illegible] for
"which the [illegible] early I trust
"I flatter myself that the stolen property
"will be restored, & the offenders punished.
"I have not yet been enabled in
"conjunction with the commanding officer
"of Fort Adams at Natchez to select
"a site for the erection of a Garrison
"central to the population of this Territory.
"The new organization of the [illegible] has
"for a few weeks past, confined the com-
"manding officer of Fort Adams at
"that post. In the course of next week,
"however, I expect Capt'n Sparks, (the
"officer commanding) at my house, and
"we will then proceed to elect a site, and
"to make other necessary arrangements, of
"which you shall be immediately notified.
"In a letter from Mr. Hulings of
"New Orleans, dated on the 12th Inst: I
"am informed of the arrival at that port
"of the five hundred rifles, which you
"advised me of in your letter of the 11
"of march last. I shall take measures
"for the transportation of these guns to
"Natchez and will dispose of them in
"conformity to the instructions I have

"herewith received
"great respect, your
"esteem
"I am
"Sir,
"your ob. Serv
"William C. C. Claibor
"Jno. C. Howard.
"H. Dearborn, Secretary

The Governor addressed a letter
of which the following is a copy
the Sheriff of each County.

"Town of Washington June
"Sir,
"The acts passed at the la
"Sessions of the Legislature not being
"printed, I enclose you a manuscript
"copy of the election law, together with
"an extract from the Ordinance, prescri
"the qualifications of the voters.
"The law points out your particula
"duty, as also the manner of appointing
"inspectors of the elections.
"It will be highly proper to advertis
"at several of the most public plac
"in your county, the time & place of

"holding [redacted]
"general [redacted] may
"not be consid[redacted]

"I am, "&c.

"very respectfully

"y[r] Mo[st] Ob[t] Servt.

"William C. C. Claiborne."

A Copy of a letter from the Governor to the Secretary at War.

"Near Natchez, June 30th 1801.

"Sir, "I enclose you a letter which I "have this day received from a Mr. John "Collier of Washington County in this "Territory, a Major in the Militia, and "a member of the Washington County "Court.

"If the Character (on Mr. Collier States) "should be disposed to grant with any of those "on the subject of Donations, it would be a "great accommodation to our citizens and "their power to encourage purchases; and I "am certain that if the purchase money "should not be very considerable it would "be speedily reimbursed by a Sale of the

[illegible] the encroachments to the Tombi-
[illegible] beg[illegible] lately greatly extended, and
"if the bounds of that District were enla-
"ged, there is no doubt but it would in
"a short time become a strong, & compa-
"Settlement.

"The Spanish records of which m
"Collier speaks, may be an important
"paper [illegible] his information be correct
"claim of the Indians to certain lands
"which they at present hold, will be
"found to have been justly extinguished

"The situation of our citizens on the
"Tombigbee is indeed unpleasant. Their
"numbers do not exceed twelve hundred
"of all descriptions, nor will the fron-
"bounds of Washington County admit
"a much greater population. These ci-
"tizens are Separated from Natchez
"and Indian Country of near 250 m
"in extent; Surrounded on all sides by
"Savages, and might be cut off before
"information of their distress could
"reach any other County in this Terri-

"I am "Sir "very respectfully
"Your Obt Servt

"P. B. Bradbourne

"The Hon[illegible]
"Henry Dearborn
"Secretary of War"

Copy of a letter from [redacted] Secretary of State, and the Federal Government.

"Department of State, May 4th 1802.

"Sir

"Your several letters from Nov. 24th to the 6th of March last, have been successively received.

"Such of them as fell within the purview of the War Department were communicated to General Dearborn who, I have reason to believe, has testified on the subjects recommended favourable attention.

"I inclose the opinion of the Attorney General in the case where you wished to know whether the phraseology used by him does not refer to the technical distinction between Chancery and Common Law Jurisdiction. The former having no distinct establishment in the Eastern States, yet you will perceive your idea justifies that cyenty can always believe against fraud.

"It is to be regretted that so much violence was committed on your agents should affect the inhabitants of a settlement, which both in its infancy and frontier character, more particularly needs the advantages of concord and stability. We rely much for amicably on your patriotic exertions and prudent conduct, which on this, as on other occasions cannot fail to inspire the Indians with confidence & to increase the security of all."

[illegible] yet [illegible] any [illegible]
[illegible] further the Spaniards are to
"[illegible] the Mississippi, or are to exchange
"that character with the French. It seems
"certain that a transfer of Louisiana was
"stipulated to the latter. Whether they will be
"diverted from the object, or abandon it of their
"own accord, or gain time to explain
"Congress adjourned on Monday the 3d
"As soon as the laws of the Session shall be ready
"copy will be forwarded to you. The course
"their proceedings will have come to your know-
"ledge through the newspapers, a file of
"latest of which is herewith enclosed. I hope
"that on future you will receive them more
"regularly, thro' the ordinary channel.
"With sentiments of great respect & esteem
"I have the honor to be, Sir, y[our] m[ost]
"obd[ient] Serv[an]t
"James Madison
"His Excellency
"William C. C. Claiborne Esq[r]
"Governor &c &c &c"

The opinion of the Attorney General alluded
to in the above letter.

"Washington, March 26th 1802.

"Sir,

"In answer to your communications
"containing the letter of the Attorney General
"of the Mississippi Territory, inclosed to you

"Claiborne [illegible]
"that Territory. [illegible]
"general principles [illegible]
"the decided cases [illegible]

"It does not [illegible] the letters actual
"were the letters pleadings in the action, in
"which evidence of fraud in the obtaining
"obtaining of a deed was excluded; what was
"particularly in issue; why it was done;
"whether it was from the idea that the grantee
"was not of the proper kind, or the best which
"the nature of the transaction admitted of.
"or that the witnesses were considered
"incompetent from being interested in the
"question or in the cause.

"Nothing can be clearer than that
"all grants made by the Spanish Govern-
"-ment, after the ratification of the treaty,
"by which the land was ceded to the United
"States are void. A claimant who has
"in fact obtained a patent or a title by
"that time under the Spanish, or since under the
"American Government, can alone hold by
"this grant. There being no question of right
"by mere possession in the way, and indeed
"such a right to vacant land can never
"exist against Government. The only question
"is, When was the patent granted? — not when
"was it dated, or when is its date? The delivery
"of a deed is the consummating act, by which, and
"from the time at which, it takes effect and
"operates. It does not [illegible] before or after

"its date [illegible] date, [illegible] date [illegible] be a proof of a deli-
"very [illegible] there can be no deed. But
"prima facie [illegible] deed shall be intend-
"to be delivered on the day of its date, and
"to be made fairly and in good faith. T
"presumptions are, however, controlable b
"proof. The executions of all deeds must b
"proved, if their validity is questioned on
"such evidence which will show any
"their essential parts to be different from
"what they are presumed to be, and in favo
"of a third person must be admissible. But
"is a matter in the country of indispensa
"requisite to be established by evidence fro
"from the date of the deed, or any thing
"contained in it. There is a difficulty a
"concerning how evidence to this point co
"be excluded by the Supreme court. The
"of Surveys, petitions, certificates, & plats, and
"the Spanish Government, and which are
"to be in the offices in New Orleans, can
"be of no use, but to show the real time
"or patents being granted. Where there a
"interfering grants, and the question is,
"which was first made; or when they
"were respectively made, and there is no
"registry or record to decide it by, nor
"statute mode of ascertaining the matter
"the greatest latitude should be given
"the admission of evidence, and after

"in Surprise

"If it procures
"evidence in the Spanish
"Government, whereon application by petition or protest, or by the
"Governor of the Territory, would be substan-
"tially sufficient for that purpose. A
"line from the Spanish minister at this
"place on the subject may be useful. His
"Government will not hesitate to aid
"in the detection of fraud. and none will
"pretend that a Spanish grant of land,
"after their right to it ceased, or a
"subsequent deed, with a prior date, can
"be good against a person, claiming under
"a prior deed, or a rightful grant

"Mention is made of an action
"being brought by one Green against the
"United States for the recovery of public
"lands & buildings, and in which after
"a verdict for the demandant, a new trial
"has been granted. It is not perceived
"how an action could be brought against the
"U. States. It may have been against
"an individual possessing, or claiming to
"possess under them. As no case is stated,
"I do not see how government can be
"bound by any verdict which may be
"given in the case, nor can I give any

[illegible] subject

[illegible] most respectfully

"Yr. Mo: ob: Servt

"Levi Lincoln

"The Honble.

"James Madison Esqr.

"Secretary of State."

The Governor's answer.

"Near Natchez, June 3rd 1802.

"Sir,

"By the last mail I was honor
"with the receipt of your letter of the 11th
"ult. enclosing me the attorney Generals'
"opinion in the case I had solicited it.

"The Spanish Governor was extra
"ly liberal in his donations, after the
"promulgation of the treaty between the
"United States and Spain. And there is no
"doubt but many tracts of land in this Dist
"are claimed by antidated grants; and
"believe the fraud may be proved without
"difficulty.

"The commissioners between the U. S and
"Georgia [illegible] part of the [illegible]

"in this [illegible] that our
"liberal [illegible] may be
"exceeded to [illegible] and our office
"should be [illegible] for the sale of
"vacant lands, and the terms of Sale
"moderate, this Territory will, in a few
"years become strong in population.

"Our present neighbours the Spaniards
"are truly friendly; and I flatter myself
"that if the French should possess
"Louisiana, with them also, we shall
"remain upon a good understanding: but
"I must confess I should regret the
"exchange.

"In the course of the negociations
"among the great nations of the Earth
"for Territory, I wish to God the U. States
"could possess themselves of East & West
"Florida, including the Island of Orleans.
"The bounds of our Country would then
"be sufficiently extensive, and the claim
"of the American Union rendered
"too strong to be weakened for several
"centurys.

"With every Sentiment of esteem &
"respect, I have the honor to be Sir
"Yr. Obs: ob: Mo: Servt

William C. C. Claiborne

The Hon[ble]
James Madison, Secretary &c.

[illegible] 1[illegible]

During the last three months the Gover
made the following appointments

In Jefferson County

William Ewing
William Shaw
Jesse Weathers
Henry Monniadue
John Dennis &
Abner Pope

} Justices of the Peace
} Justices of the Co
Court

In Adams County

Philander Smith
John Henderson
Joseph Erwin
Joseph Sessions
William Parby
Abner Green
Walter Burling &
Samuel Bird

} Justices of the Pe
and Justices o
the County Cou

In Claiborne County

James Hammett
Abner Hammett

} a Justice of the P
} a Justice of the Cou

[redacted]
Joseph [redacted] of the peace
Joseph [redacted] tain of the
Reiss Weber [redacted] County Court

Thomas Green Sen.r } Treasurer for Jefferson County

John Brooks - Sheriff } for Jefferson
William Moss - Coroner } County

For additional appointments during the last three months, reference may be had to the office of the Brigade Inspector, where they are duly recorded.

Copy of a letter to Captain Richard Sparks, Commanding officer at Fort Adams, from the Governor.

"Town of Washington, July 1st 1802

"Dr Sir

"Some time since a small detachment of Troops under the command of Lieutenant Williams was ordered to "Washington, to assist in erecting a "Small Block house, for the reception

"of soon as the army is to be sol
"ret to [redacted] of the District Bu
"before this work is completed, the det
"=ment returned to Fort Adams to in
"the new organization of the Army.

"I hope, Sir, that the troops are no
"so arranged, that you can, without u
"to the Service, immediately detach a Su
"=tern officer, and a party of men to th
"town, in order that the work may b
"completed, which Lieutenant Williams
"had commenced.

"I will thank you to send with
"detachment the tools necessarily disco
"erecting a block-house. I presume th
"may be spared from the Quarter Ma
"store.

"The commanding officer at Fort
"has heretofore been instructed, by the
"Secretary at War to deliver to my ord
"three hundred Stand of Muskets. Thes
"arms have not yet been called for, bec
"I have no safe place to deposit them, h
"for the immediate accommodation of Sev
"of the Militia, I wish you would forw
"by the detachment, sixty Stand, and by
"before their arrival, I will enclose you

"receipt

"Yr Obt Servt

"Wm C. C. Claiborne

"Captn Richard Sparks

"Commanding officer at Fort Adams"

Copy of a letter from the Governor
to the Comptroller of the Treasury.

"July 1st 1802. Near Natchez.

"Sir

"I have the honor to enclose you
"the account of Saml Postlethwait & Co. for
"Stationary furnished my office, during the
"last six months. The charges are such as
"~~are~~ are customary in this town; &
"I have therefore fixed the bill. If this
"account should be passed by the accounting
"officers of the Treasury, I will thank you
"to return me the same.

"With respect & Esteem

"Yr Obt Servt

[illegible] to Claiborne

"To the Co[illegible] of the Treasury

The account of Mr. Postle Kennedy
amounted to thirty seven dolla[illegible]

Copy of a letter from the Govern
to Captain Sparks, Commandin
[illegible] at Fort Adams

"Near Natchez July 6

"Sir

"In a late letter from the
Council of the United States at New
Orleans, I am informed of the arriva
that part of five hundred rifle gun
forwarded to him by the Secretary
War, with instructions to deliver the
to my order.

"To save the expence of storage &c
New Orleans, and to enable me to
dispose of those arms agreeably to the
wishes of our government, I am desirous
that they should be speedily conveyed to
Natchez: but I believe it cannot

"[illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

"as [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

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[illegible] letter [illegible] Governor
[illegible] Comd[g] [illegible] Ms
at New Orleans

Natchez, July 6th 1802

Sir

"This letter will be forwarded to
"you by the Commanding Officer at Fort
"Adams, who sends a small Command
"to New Orleans to receive the goods Cate
"Shipped from Philadelphia directed h
"your care, and to be delivered to my
"order

"I fear the boat which Captn Spa
"dispatches, will not be Sufficient to Car
"to convey the whole of the boxes of rifle
"guns. If so, I write therefor you to deli
"to the order of Captn Sparks Such
"number as you may Suppose the boat
"can Safely carry, and the balance
"you will be pleased to Send on by Som
"other conveyance. I have understood th
"a public Schooner, loaded with cloathi
"is shortly expected at Fort Adams—
"Perhaps this vessel may call at Orlean
"and it will be convenient for her to tak
"on any remaining boxes. If so, a cou
"receipt in that vessel will be prefer

"but [redacted] to
"our Case [redacted] ity
"The [redacted] ordeal
"there you'd, you [redacted] ge to the U.
"States; or if you think proper, you may
"make the charge against me, and
"the amount shall be paid to your order.

"Your letter of the 12th June, was
"received, and answered on the 23d of
"the same month

"I am
"Sir,
"very respectfully
"Y. M. Ob. Servt.

W. C. C. Claiborne.

"M. Hulings,
"Vice Consul at N. Orleans"

Copy of a letter from the Governor to
the Commd officer at Fort Stothart.

"Natchez, July 10th 1801.

"Sir, "The bearer, Louis Le Fleur, has
"in charge certain goods as specified in

"the [redacted] sent by
"the U. S. Agent for the Choctaw Indians.

"You will be pleased to have there
"safely deposited in Fort Stothart
"& to deliver them to the order of the
"Agent for the U. S. in the Choctaw
"Nation.

"I will thank you to furnish the
"agent with such assistance as he may
"need, to enable him to convey the goods
"up the Mobile river.

"I am
"Sir
"very respectfully
"your obt. Servt.
"W. C. C. Claiborne.
"To the Commanding officer
at Fort Stothart."

A copy of Lewis Le Blanc receipt.
Natchez, July 10th 1802
Received from William C. C. Claiborne Governor of the Mississippi Territory, two bales, marked "Choctaw Annuity" No. 1 & 2, forwarded, more &c. U. S. Choctaw

= am[illegible] Choc
taw Indians [illegible] marke
"Choctaw [illegible] goods
for the Ch[illegible] the whole in
good order, [illegible]se to deliver
unto the good men [illegible] the comman=
=ding officer at Fort Stoddert on the
Mobile river, the dangers of the Seas
only, excepted.

Louis Leflear

A Copy of a Passport given to
Louis Leflear

William C. C. Claiborne Esqr. Gover=
=nor and commander in chief of the
Mississippi Territory. These are to
request his Excellency the Governor of
the Province of Louisiana and others
of his Catholic Majesty's Subjects to
let Louis Leflear and two other gentle=
=men who accompany him, citizens of
the United States, together with certain
goods sent by the United States as
presents to the Choctaw nation of Indi=
=ans, as per their several marks, viz.
one hogshead marked "Choctaw annu=
=ity" three hogsheads marked "U. S. Choc=
taw Indians", and two large bales
marked "Choctaw annuity", together with

one [illegible] pass [illegible]
and [illegible] or [illegible]
be given, and [illegible], but on [illegible]
contrary, according to their allegiance
protection as we would in the case
for those who come recommended to [illegible]
Government

In testimony whereof we [illegible]
delivered to him and them this pa
Signed by my hand and with
Seal of the said Territory hereunt
annexed.

Given this 10th day of July
Anno Domini 1800 and in the 25th
year of the Independence of the United
States of America.

Signed
William C. C. Claiborne
Governor of the Mississippi Territ

Copy of a letter from John Gir
with the Governor's Answer

"Recess, near Henderson 29th July

"Sir,

"Various circumstances have un
"=" one to assign to you the inclosed
"Commission, if it may be so call

"the fir[illegible] that [illegible] the
"insertion of [illegible] under
"which I ha[illegible] I drew
"a Bill of Sale, a[illegible] rather anto=
"=nuitical me when I saw it, I then
"accepted it on the fir[illegible] belief of its being
"the uniform and general tenor upon ha
"accepted. but when at Court I saw the
"Commissions of the Justices, Sheriff, Coroner,
"and even of the Constables, and found
"them all directed of that type of ink=
"=trust which is stamped on me above,
"I did immediately determine to keep
"it no longer time than would be neces=
"sary to make up the Judgments, and
"arrange the busineſs of the Court, which
"however I have not yet had time to do,
"but having declared to my friends that
"I would resign it immediately on
"being elected to represent them in Genrd
"Assembly (although the Constitution of our
"Territory is silent and does not make
"it incompatible) yet I hasten so to do

"I am
"Sir
"Yr. mo. ob. Hble Servt
"Jno. Giraudt

"His Excellency
"The Governor"

Dear Sir [illegible] 29th Ulto was
delivered to me this afternoon

It is a matter of no consequence to
what were the circumstances which indu
you to resign the office of Jefferson Coun
Court, but since you have thought p
per to mention a reason, which you
the principal one, a desire which I
always felt to remove erroneous impr
-ons induces me to state that the "Jeff
of district" referred to was not Stamped
upon your alone: The fact is, the word
"during the pleasure of the Governor for
"the time being", were inserted in most
the Commissions which were issued a
the commencement of my administra
and among others, the expressions which
have given umbrage to you, were used
the Commissions of the Sheriff of Adam
County, the Clerk of the Superior Co
and the Atty General for Jefferson
District.

I could proceed further in exp
-lanation, but I suppose enough is said
to answer my purpose; to wit, "The remov
of an erroneous impression

I shall in a few days appoint a Su
-cessor to you; and in the mean time

prea[illegible]
to hold [illegible]
other pap[illegible]
Ja[illegible]

[illegible]

W. C. C. Claiborne

Col. C. Jno. Gravelt.

A Copy of a letter from the Secretary at War and the Governors answer

"War Department, June 7th 1802.

"Sir,

"General Wilkinson has received directions from this Department to Superintend the preambulating the boundary line between the Mississippi Territory and the Chochtaw nation, but as Some doubts arise respecting this line, he will not proceed in the business unless the Chochtaws will first consent to accept of Some reasonable Sum to establish that line which was agreed on between their nation and the British Government, in a Treaty which was held Some time before the British Government came last into possession of the Floridas.

[illegible] Secretary
[illegible] in obtaining their
consent [illegible] you will be [illegible]
I have to request that you Excellency
will appropriate Some Suitable person to
assist him as a Surveyor; and also to
procure Chainmen, Packhorses, provi-
sions and Stores, on the most reasonable terms
Your Bills on this department for any
expence which you may incur in the
discharge, will be accepted and paid on
the shortest notice.

The Government of the United
States having concluded on establishing
a trading house for the accommodation
of the Choctaws, goods to the amount of
ten thousand dollars will be sent to
Mobile for commencing the establishment
I will thank you to inform me as soon
as you can conveniently of the most
eligible Situation for the factory to be
established. As soon as a spot is fixed
upon measures will be taken for erect-
ing Suitable buildings for the Store &
the residence of the Factor

A Similar establishment on a
smaller Scale will be made at the
Chickasaw Bluffs for the accommodation
of the Chickasaws. Goods for both

[redacted]

[redacted] Dearborn

His Excellency

William C. C. Claiborne.

Near Natchez, July 20th 1802.

Sir, I have rec'd. your letter of the 7th Inst. and will endeavour faithfully to execute the duties you require of me.

I am persuaded that General Wilkinson will meet with no difficulty in making with the Choctaw nation, the arrangement you desire. The Choctaws are an humble people and very much disposed to accommodate.

When General Wilkinson may be in readiness to proceed on the line, I shall select a suitable person to assist him as a Surveyor, and will provide Chainmen, Pack-horses, Provisions & Stores. It will be my care to obtain the necessary assistance and supplies on the most moderate terms.

[illegible] is so [illegible] this District, that [illegible] give [illegible] the terms extravag[illegible]

I cannot at present give a decis[illegible] opinion as to the most eligible spot [illegible] the establishing a trading house for the accommodation of the Choctaws; but I am inclined to think that some convenient Scite on the Tombigbee near the mouth of the Alabama will best answer the views of Government. But upon this point I will correspond our agent in the nation, and often characters, and will write you more fully in a few weeks.

Since my last letter to you I have been visited by Captn Sparks, the commanding officer at Fort Adams, who we have selected an eligible spot for the erection of a Garrison. It is on a high commanding ground in a healthy part of the District, possessing the advantage of excellent Springs near the center of our population and not more than six miles from the Mississippi river. But for more particular information I refer you to the enclosed draft and descriptions

[illegible] for the
Garrison, [illegible] done,
So that [illegible] learn upon
what terms [illegible] a few acres
of land might be effected: but I
will venture an opinion that he
will not ask more than fifteen
dollars per acre for 10 or 12 acres;
and that for a small consideration
he would permit the timber necessa-
ry for the works to be cut from
the adjacent land. But on my
Colonel's return, which will be in
a few days, I will know his terms
with certainty and will advise
you thereof.

A Lieutenant and thirty seamen
are at this time stationed near this town,
& engaged in erecting a small block house
for the reception of the arms intended to
be sold to the militia. At my request,
Captain Sparks detached, a few days
since, a party of men from Fort Adams
to New Orleans for a part of the rifles
which had arrived at that port, and
the balance Mr. Hulings is requested to
forward to me by the first [illegible] conveyance.

is [illegible] different Counties a
laid off [illegible] Battalions and
companies. Officers are a
appointed, and the men enrolled: a
great degree of rivalship exists betw
the different corps: and I flatter m
that in a little time I shall have
well armed and well disciplined
Militia.

I received, the other day, Sixty
of muskets from Fort Adams. They
been heretofore used, and are not in
order. I propose therefore to sell th
at the moderate Sum of eight dollar
piece. At this reduced price I expe
the militia will speedily purchase
But I find that the people here are
much prejudiced against muskets,
are unwilling to depend upon any
arms but rifles.

About twelve days ago the Ann
annuity for the year 1804, together w
the goods which I had lately requi
by the way of New Orleans, were f
forwarded by water from Natchez
Fort Stoddart on the Mobile under
the care of one Louis Lefleur, a trad
in the nation. This annuity was sent

[illegible] by [illegible] ing
[illegible] and [illegible] to re=
commend [illegible] honest
and indust[illegible] man.

I requested the commanding offi=
cer at fort Stothart to receive the goods
& to deliver them to the order of the
agent for the United States in the
Choctaw nation.

I have the honor to be
Sir,
with the greatest respect
Yr Mt. Servt

William C. C. Claiborne

The Honble
W. Dearborn,
Secretary at War.

Copy of a letter from the Governor
to the Secretary at War.

Near Natchez, August 6th 1802.

Sir,

I have made enquiry as to the most eligible situation for a trading house to supply the Choctaw Indians with such goods as they may want, and am now decidedly of opinion that some position on the Tombigbee ought to be selected. A trading house on that grea

=ter [illegible] regularly [illegible] these
with goods from the United States; wou
be conveyed [illegible] to the great body of the
nation; and would encourage the tra
trade, at present carried on by the
of Mobile and Pensacola, which inte
considerably with the arrangements
our Government to introduce the ben
of civilization among the Choctaws.
On the navigation of the Mobile
Bayou not secured to the United St
it is possible that the Spanish officers in
that quarter might throw some impe
ments in the way of transporting
goods to the factory. But from the fri
friendly and accommodating disposition
of the Governor General of Louisiana
towards the U. States, I do not anticip
much difficulty in this point.

I am, Sir, very respectfully
Your ob.t Sv.t
W. C. C. Claiborne

The Honble
The Secretary of War.

Copy of letter
from
Governor [illegible]
to
Secy of War.

New [illegible] March 6th 1802

Sir,

By the last mail I forwarded a draft of the Scite selected by the commanding officer at Fort Adams & myself for the erection of a new Garrison: I now have the honor to enclose you the copy of a letter from a Mr Calvit to me, which will acquaint you of the terms upon which ten acres of land, including the Scite may be purchased.

The consideration per acre is not more than Lands in the neighbourhood are generally commanded, and when we take into view the peculiar advantages of the ground, I am of opinion that Mr. Calvits terms are quite reasonable.

As the works progress the greatest economy shall be observed, and no unnecessary expense incurred, and I am now well assured that the aggregate cost will fall short of the Sum I heretofore stated to you.

If a compromise should be ordered you

[illegible] to occupy [illegible] Barrancas, may [illegible] form
to assist [illegible] to direct, that
Capt. Sparks be attached on this com-
=mand. Of his integrity, prudence, &
patriotism, I have the highest opinion
& believe him well calculated to take
charge of a Seperate post.

The rifles from Orleans have not
yet reached me; but I expect them every
day. A small Block house for the re-
ception of these arms is nearly compl

In the course of this week I have
reviewed the militia of the Jefferson &
Adams Counties; and can assure you
that the prospect of having Twelve thou
& armed militia, exceeds my
most Sanguine expectations. — In the
course of the ensuing week I shall
review the militia of the other coun-
=ties; and by the next mail I hope
shall be enabled to make to you a
return of the effective force of this

With great respect, & sincere esteem
I have the honor to be
Yr. very Obl. Servt
W. C. C. Claiborne

The Honble.
H. Secretary at War.

For the Secretary of War

Near Natchez 1802

Sir,

Your letter of the 30th ultimo has been received. I am sorry to learn of your indisposition; but I flatter myself, ere this time, your health is sufficiently restored, to enable you to attend to your official duties.

I am desirous to receive your quarterly Report, in as much, as I expect to learn from it, the present state of your agency, and to be particularly informed of the progress of civilization among the Chickasaws.

In a late letter from the Secretary at War, I am advised, that it is in contemplation to establish, in the course of a few months, a Trading house at the Chickasaw Bluffs for the accommodation of the Chickasaw nation; but lest from some cause this establishment should either be delayed or given up, you will only mention it to the Indians as a project, or rather as an object contemplated,

[illegible] Journey from
[illegible] communicating very
unwell, and have need so oppressed
with a pain in my head, that I am
compelled to conclude this letter.

Make my respects to the Head
men of the Nation, and particularly
my acquaintances, the Mr. Colberts.

I am Sir,
very respectfully
Yr. Obt. Sert.
M. G. G. Claiborne.

Jamk Mitchell
Agent for the U. S. in the
Chickasaw Nation

On the 17th day of August the
Governor issued the following Treas
Warrant.

To Abner Green Esqr. Treasurer
General for the Mississippi Territ

Sir, You will pay to James Terrell
Esqr. out of any monies which may
be in the Treasury, two hundred and
Sixty eight dollars, being the Sum wh
is due him for printing the laws

for so
he grad
Given
at the town
day of Au
this 17th

W. C. C. Claiborne

Governor of the Mississippi
Territory.

On the 1st of may I issued a warrant in favor of Mr. Jarvis for one hundred and forty four dollars, I am informed by Mr. Jarvis that this warrant has been lost. The Treasurer therefore is instructed to refuse payment if it should ever be presented, since the amount has been included in the warrant drawn this day issued.

W. C. C. C.

Copy of a letter to Col. Girault

Town of Washington August 17th 1802

Sir

I have this day appointed Mr. Edward Turner Clerk of the county Court for Jefferson County, and to this

[illegible] to be [illegible]
all the [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
your late [illegible]

Accept my best thanks for the
faithful services you have rendered
the public.

I am Sir
very respectfully
Yr. Obt. Servt.

W. C. C. Claiborne

Colo. Girault.

Copy of a letter from the
Secretary at War and the Gov
answer.

War Department, June 11th

Sir, Information has lately been
caused from Johnstone late Agent
the Choctaw nation that a debt of
devisable amount is due from the
Choctaws to the English house of
Forbes & Co. at Pensacola, and
they have [illegible] receiving from the
a tract of land in payment, from
the Government of the United St

[illegible]

[illegible] 6th article. I am not able to say whether the nations will agree to the contemplated cession, but I have little doubt of it, and I am certain they will never otherwise pray to be invaded, nor they to this town, the inhabitants

[illegible]

[illegible] are interested

[illegible]

[illegible] promise made by the Government

[illegible] by the Governor of [illegible] that he [illegible] as would greatly [illegible] the Iroquois [illegible] their [illegible] nations.

I should tell them [illegible] which opinion is [illegible] by the Mohawks [illegible] the heart of the Government, and it [illegible] entirely out of the line of their duty

and cannot be considered in in any manner binding; he ought to have kn that no such agreement could be made without the consent of the Nation to consent first had and obtained, he ought to have been aware of the extreme impropriety of permitting foreigners to hold a large tract of country among any of our Indian nations.

I write thank you to have such enquiries made thro' Mr Dinsmore as will lead to an understanding of the outline, on which the proposed bargain for the lands was to be made, and to a knowledge of the sums which is due from the nation to the house of Panton Leslie & Co.^{s} and which was to be canceled by the proposed cession, and the quantity of land which could probably be obtained

If a tract of land on the navigable waters of the Alabama or Tombigby could be obtained, which would be worthy the attention of Government, it is possible that Congress might think proper to authorise the President to accept it on behalf of the United Sta

cannot pay the debts.

The President [redacted] that those claims should be paid, but it will be remembered that the Government of the United States are not in any manner obligated to indemnify any person or persons who may on their own account carry on trade with the Indian nations within their limits

I have the honor to remain
Yr. Excellency's
Mo: ob: Servt
H. Dearborn

His Excellency
W. C. C. Claiborne.

Near Natchez, August 19th 1802.

Sir

Your Letter of the 11th of June
was duly received.

I have heretofore understood that
the Choctaw Indians were greatly in debt
to the house of Panton Leslie & Co. and that
they (the Choctaws) are desirous to seek
certain lands to enable them to extract

their engagements. A letter from a m
Collier to me on this Subject, I enclosed
to you Several mails ago; but on the
arrival of Mr. Dinmore in the matt
I will endeavour to obtain more
particular information, and will
advise you thereof.

The proposition of Panton Leslie
to receive in payment from the Choct
Extract of labor, is indeed unreasonable
These gentlemen have been sufficiently
indulged, in being permitted to trade
with the Indians within our limits;
and I am persuaded it would be good
policy to withdraw this indulgence fr
the future. The trading house which
our Government contemplates establish
will be Sufficient for the accommodat
of the Choctaws, & I see no reason why
foreigners Should be encouraged to hav
our rivals.

In a letter from Lieutenant Schuyler
commanding at Fort Stoddart, I am info
red that the Indian goods which were
committed by me to the care of Louis Le
fleur had arrived at that place, were
Safely deposited, and would be delivered
to the order of the Agent for the Choct
Nation.

General Wilkinson has this
has expects to reach [redacted] in the
mouth of [redacted] the arrange-
ments for retaining [redacted] the
old line of [redacted]

I am in hopes that I should have
been enabled to transmit you a general
Militia return by this mail; but ow-
ing to the neglect of some of the
officers, the returns from the different
counties are yet incomplete.

With great respect & Sincere esteem

I have the honor to be your
Mo: very Mo: Servt

W. C. C. Claiborne.

The Honble
The Secretary of War.

Copy of a letter from the Governor to
the Secretary of State.

Natchez, August 19th 1802.

Sir,

In a former letter I stated to you the
want of confidence on the part of many
of the Citizens of this Territory in their
Supreme Judiciary; the deficiency of
legal talents in two of the Judges, and

the propriety there was, in suspending the first vacancy with a character of good character information.

It is now reported that Judge Pitton has resigned of the truth of the report you can best determine.

But there is one fact report which I believe more certain, "That Mr. Genth = man has gone to Europe on some commercial business." He in said to have sailed from New Orleans, about two months ago, in a vessel bound to Liverpool. I thought it my duty to state this report since it may be made a question how far his conduct on the part of a Judge (unless his voyage had been previously sanctioned by Government) ought to be considered as an abandonment of office.

In January or February last, Mr. Pitton left Natchez, and has been attending to his private business at Orleans until his late departure from that Port.

If Judge Pitton's office should be vacant, permit me to recommend as his successor a Mr. Derrick Register of the Territory. Mr K is an able lawyer, an amiable man, he needs, to fill respectable [illegible]

[redacted] office of Judge [redacted] him-
self & unfortunately [redacted] very.
Colo. Jones [redacted] as Secretary
for this Territory, expires on the 7th of
May last: Since which he has not
considered himself bound to transact
any further business.

I am at much loss for a Secretary,
and must beg that an appointment
of one be speedily made. I will not
venture to recommend any particular
character for this office, being well
assured that any gentleman selected by
the President, will discharge his duty
with ability and fidelity.

Accept assurances of my great
respect & sincere esteem.

I have the honor to be

Sir,

Your mo: obd: Hble Servt.

W. C. C. Claiborne

The Hon'ble,
James Madison,
Secretary of State

Copy of a letter from the Governor
to Thos Interpreter

Natchez, August 22nd 1802

Sir,

Your letter of the first Instant I received the first instant a few days since; and I am much pleased, with your zealous and active exertions in the recovery of Mr Bracken's property.

The conduct of the chiefs on this occasion is highly satisfactory, & I wish you to say to them that they possess my esteem & confidence.

It is true there are ill-disposed men in all nations, and that mischief from such persons cannot at all times be prevented. But when a man commits an offence, and is punished for it, he will take care not to do so again, and others will be deterred from following his example, for fear they may receive a similar punishment. This is the reason why the white people punish their offenders with such severity; and I wish you to enforce upon the Chiefs the propriety of their adopting a similar policy.

I have written to the Secretary at War upon the subject of your claim; and so soon as I receive an answer, will

address you this
I have the
General Wilk
on public
should not have reached the nation
you will open the letter and attend
to its contents.

I am, Sir
very respectfully &c
W. C. C. Claiborne.

John Pitchlynn
Interpreter
Choctaw nation

Copy of a letter from Wm. C. Hebert,
Vice Consul at the Port of N. Orleans to
the Governor.

New Orleans, 23rd July 1802.

Sir, In compliance with your Excellency's
letter of the 6th Inst. I have delivered
to Sergeant Parsons, who is sent by
Capt. Sparks, sixteen boxes of rifle guns
which by the memorandum thereof appears
to contain, one hundred & Sixty one guns.

[redacted] endeavoured to h
ve [redacted] Schooner your
Speak [redacted] arrives. We have
heard nothing of her yet.

As the expenses on the general
but a trifle and as I have no acco
them with the U. S. when the re
=der are shipped, I will draw on you
for the amount.

We are in much suspense respe
our political destiny. It appears th
the wish of the majority of the men of
property, to remain as we are. We ha
received letters from Philad.a by the
Brig Sophia as late as the 25th May;
they contain nothing important, exc
the information that the Treaty of Mad
is made null and void. — Our city is a
healthy as I have ever known it at th
Season.

I am, Sir,
with due respect
Y.r mo. ob.t Serv.t
Wm. E. Hill[illegible]

His Excell.y
Governor Claiborne

Copy of a Letter from Lieut
-nant Swan to the Secret
-ary at War

Aug.t 1802.

Sir, The annuity for the Shoshonee
nation for 1802 under charge of
Louis Leflear, reached here this morn=
ing. I have compared the Hogs heads,
Boxes &c with the receipt of Leflear, &
find they agree.

I shall, in conformity with your
request, give every assistance in my
power to the agent in conveying the
goods up the river.

I have the honor to be
Sir with respect
Yr. ob: Servt
P. P. Schuyler Lt
& Comm.g

The Secty
of War
Georgia Creektown

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Copy [redacted] from the Governor
to Colonel Burnett.

Washington August 2[illegible] 180[illegible]

Sir

Mr. W. McCalel handed me your le
of the 2[illegible] Inst. I am much pleased wi
this young man, and think him well
calculated for an officer.

I will appoint a successor to the
Ensign who declined, so soon as I can
Select a suitable character. Will you
connelt with the Captain of the
Company? and if you & him can agr
upon a proper person, you will be
pleased to mention his name to me
without delay.

Accept my best wishes.

I am, Sir, very respectfully
Yr. Mt. Servt.

W. C. C. Claiborne

Colo. Danl. Burnett.

Copy of a letter from the Secretary of War

Near [redacted] Augt 22d 1802

Sir

John Pitchlynn an Interpreter for the Chactaw Nation of Indians, has a claim against the United States, which he is desirous to have settled.

It seems that in the year 1786 at the treaty at Hopewell, Mr. Pitchlynn was appointed an Interpreter for the Chactaw Indians by the American Commissioners, and that he acted under this appointment, in that capacity, until the year '92, when he received a new Commission as Interpreter from William Blount at that time Governor of the South Western Territory and superintendant of Indian affairs

Pitchlynn claimed three hundred Dollars pr annum for his services from the year '86 to the year '92, but his account not being allowed by the proper accounting officers, he petitioned Congress upon the subject, in the year '99, and if my Memory serves me right, his claim was admitted by the House of Representatives

Mr Simmons the Accountant of War, can give you particular information as to Pitchlynn's claim, and to him I beg leave

came to refer you Pickens in a
par Iran among the Chactaws, very pr
ofit of the American Interest, and I w
him to be convinced of the Disposition of
Government to admit any of his Sugg
Brandt

May I be permitted therefore to ref
you to make enquiry into this Mans
and to Inform me, in what estimation, h
Recent Stand

With great Esteem and R
Sir
Your Mo. ob.t Hble Serv.t
(Signed) William C. C. Claiborne

Genl Dearborn
Secretary of War

Copy of Letter from the Govern
to the Secretary of War

Near Natchez September

Sir, In my Letter of the 29th of
I mentioned a Robbery, which had recen
been committed by some of the Choctaw
ans, and of the Measures I had taken to obtain
redress.

I now have the pleasure to inform
you, that the property taken has been restor
and that the Chiefs are disposed to do
Justice in every instance in which any
The enclosed Letter to the Govr. John P
Byrne the Indian Agent among the Chact

and Andrew [redacted] robbed.

I do not know [redacted] of Mr. Dempsey, his [redacted] tion, is at this time desirable, [redacted] that Dempsey has been [redacted] wounded in a duel with a Gentleman in Tennessee, but I hope the report is without foundation.

With sentiments the most respectful

I am Sir

Your Mo: Obt. Hble Servt

(Signed) William C. C. Claiborne

The Hon'ble Henry Dearborn

Secy. of War

Copy of a Letter from the Governor to the Post Master General

Near Natchez September 6th 1802

Sir

I have been requested by a number of respectable Citizens, who feel much interested in the Subject, to solicit you to establish a Post Office at the Town of Greenville in this Territory. Greenville is a flourishing little village about 28 miles distant from Natchez, and immediately on the Post road to Tennessee.

It is situated in the very heart of a compact, populous and wealthy settlement, on the main Town for Jefferson County, and the place of holding the Superior Court for Jefferson District.

If this is [illegible] &c.

to make, permit me to mention Doct
John Shaw who resides in Greenville, as a
proper person to be appointed Post Mast
he is an honest, well informed Gentle
who possesses a Fortune, will remain
[illegible] to his country, and to any
that may be reposed in him

With great respect & esteem I
have the Honour to be
Your Mo: obt. Hble Servt.
(Signed) William C.C. Claiborne

The Hon.ble
Gideon Granger

Copy of a Letter from the Govern
to the Clerk of Adams County

Town of Washington Thursday Septembe

Sir

On Tuesday or Wednesday next, I
appoint a Session to you, as Clerk of the Cou
Court for Adams County, and I have g
you this Information, in Order that y
may be prepared by that time, to deli
in person of your office, to the Gentle
who may be Commissioned

I am Sir
Very respectfully
Your Obt Se

Signed William C.C. Claibor

P.S. Walker Esq. Clerk of Adams County Court

Copy of a Letter from Governor C.
Samuel Brooks [redacted] Adams County
Court

Washington September 9th 1802

Sir

I find, that the people of this Compa
ny district have not been called upon for a
return of their taxable property, and I be
lieve, the delay has arisen from the cir
cumstance, that the duty of receiving the
tax List in this quarter, was committed to
Mr William Vousdan lately deceased—
Will you be [redacted] enough to enquire into this
matter, at the Clerks office, and if you find
that Mr Vousdan was appointed by this Court
it will be proper to nominate a successor
who by the Law three Justices are empowered
to do so Mr James Nelson of this Town is an
acting Justice, and very capable of discha
rging any duties appertaining to that of
fice

I am Sir

Very respectfully,

Your Hble Servt

(Signed) William C. C. Claiborne

Samuel Brooks Esqr

Chairman of Adams County Court

Copy of a [illegible] from the Governor to Mr. [illegible] Callin

Near Natchez 25th Dec. 180[illegible]

Sir

[illegible] time since, enclosed [illegible] to you, Commissions for several Gentlemen [illegible] had been recommended to me, as fit Persons, to be [illegible] fronter Captains and Subalterns in the 3d Regt. of Militia.

If the Commissions have reached I have no doubt, but they have been distributed I flatter myself the Gentlemen appointed entered upon their duty, and that there [illegible] favourable prospect of Organizing the Militia [illegible] Country.

I had promised myself the pleasure visiting Washington District the present [illegible] but am prevented by my necessary [illegible] attention, to some public business in the [illegible] of the Territory.

I am desirous to learn the exact Situation in Washington District, to which Indian claim has been extinguished, and I suppose the quantity and quality of land and any information which you can give me on the subject will be thankfully received.

I shall be happy to [illegible]

[illegible] of the Judge Lewis
[illegible]
[illegible] respectfully
[illegible] Your [illegible] Serv.t
(Signed) William C. C. Claiborne

Copy of a Letter from the Governor
to Major Nathaniel Christmas
Near Natchez September 9th 1802

Dear Sir,

I should have been happy, to
visited Washington [illegible] the present
[illegible] and [illegible] promised myself that pleasure,
I am prevented from necessary attendance
this Quarter of the Territory on some
Public Business.

I shall esteem it a favour, if you
will furnish me, with the best information
you can obtain, as to the extent of Territory on
Mobile, to which the Indian Claim has
been extinguished, and the supposed Quantity
& Quality of the vacant Land.

On the return of Judge Lewis
I shall expect to receive your Answer

Accept my best wishes

I am Sir
Very respectfully
Your Hble Serv.t
William C. C. Claiborne

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Copy of a [illegible] from the Governor
Recd [illegible] Clerk of Washington
County

Near Natchez September 18th

Sir

I have enclosed you, several Hand
addressed to the Claimants of Land, within the Mor
Territory, and wish thank you, to have them poste
at the most Publick places in your County.

The Claims to be filed, I would
to be drawn upon separate pieces of paper, wit
name of the Claimants annexed, and as the
delivered to you, it is proper, to Clasp them u
their several Heads, [illegible] manner full
— Tenth —

Settlers on the twenty seventh day
October one thousand seven hundred and nine
holding under British Grants.

Settlers on the twenty seventh day of
one thousand seven hundred and ninety five
ing under Spanish Grants.

Settlers on the twenty seventh day
October one thousand seven hundred and nine
Claiming by any actual survey or settlement
under the Act of Georgia, commonly called
Bourbon Act.

The different Classes above plac
into different Jars, may be put in
under and Lottery Claimants drawing under

Second Article of the [redacted] between the
U. States and Georgia.

With respect to the [redacted] of Claims
mentioned in the Standing Order, you will be pleased
to [illegible] they are delivered to the Board in the same
regular manner under their different heads
& may be put in a bundle, to be labelled
"Claims not falling under the Guaranty
of the second Article of Agreement".

By the first opportunity after the
first of November, you will be pleased to forward
me, the Claims which have been filed.

I am aware that this business will be
attended with much trouble, but after the
Work is performed, I shall ask permission of
the Secretary of State, to make you some com-
pensation, for your personal services

As to the manner of drawing up the
Claim, the Hand bill, will be the best guide,
the Source from whence the Claim arose, and
the dates of the Titles must be particularly
stated, and where actual settlement stengthens
the Claim, the period when the settlement was
made must be stated.

I am Sir very respectfully
Your Obt. Servt.
[illegible]
Surveyor of Public Lands S.W. Territory

Copy of a Letter from the Secretary of
to the Governor of the Mississippi Territory

Department of State July 26th 180

Sir

Herewith inclosed is a copy of the Agre
entered into on the 24th ult. between the Com
Missioners on the part of the U. States, and those
the part of Georgia, duly Authorized for that pur
which Agreement was Ratified by the Legislature of
that State on the 16th of June last

According to the Act of Congress of May
1800 the Commissioners of the United States are thereby
to settle the terms of a Compromise with the State
of Georgia, are further Authorized to enquire into
the Claims which are or shall be made by settlers or
any other persons whatever, to any part of the Lan
in Question; and to receive from the Claimants
proposals of Compromise, and lay a full St
ment of the Claims and propositions, together
with the Opinion of the Commissioners thereon
for Congress, for their decision

Of the Claims to be made & pro
dered and recognized in the 2d Article of the
Agreement, under the Head of grants legally
Executed & actual settlements the Secretary
ceed to the United States on the 27th Oct
by the Juridical Government of West Flor
or by the Governments of Spain, and un

[illegible] of Claims [illegible] Georgia
a settlement [illegible] Georgia
passed Feby 14th 1795 [illegible] for
laying out a District [illegible] the River
Mississippi and within the bounds of the State
into a County to be called Bourbon" And as
that from this Act is also [illegible] included

To enable the Commissioners to
make the proper report to Congress on this part of
the subject, you are requested to furnish them with
the best information you can obtain; first with
respect to the extent of Territory both on the
Mississippi and the Mobille, which has been relin-
quished by the Indians: secondly with respect to
the claims recognized by the second article of the
agreement with Georgia. To make this last in-
formation as accurate and full as possible, it
may be well, to enable the claimants by Public
Advertisement to file prior to the first of November
for the proper County Officers, the particular
nature and extent of their respective claims and the
grounds of title claimed to the present claimants
in K Regiment title; The Commissioners hope
that you will be able to state to them particularly
the manner in which grants were made and con-
firmed under both the British and Spanish
Governments; this information will be very necessary
for the use of Congress in carrying the said

...ble of the Agreement in due effect, shall
...ll be found impracticable to render the Sale for
...tion on those points complete, you will ne...
Manning be pleased to forward the best you
collect

The other Claims to be considered under
and which tho' not recognized, fall within
(as that to be made to Longueil, are first, an
primarily, such as are grounded on alle...
Grants of Georgia subsequent to the Bourbon
County Act. With respect to these claims, it
not desired that you should make any publ...
call for information; but you will oblig...
the Commissioners by enquiring and com...
ascertaining what or whether any steps have b...
taken in behalf of the claiming Compa...
towards settling, setting out, or surveying an...
part of the Lands and particularly, whether
any part is now actually occupied by any
of these Claimants severally, Claims if any
derived under the French Government previo...
to the peace of 1763. Finally, Claims derived
in the British and Spanish governments
prevailed at the Treaty of 1795; but as ...
proceeded by actual settlement at the ...

the Treaty. [illegible] the
Spanish Government [illegible] the
to the Spanish Claims [illegible] Claims
founded on the Cession of Mississippi by Georgia
by Act of Georgia. The four last descriptions
of Claimants may also be fairly invited
to give in a State[ment] of their respective Claims
by the first of November that they may be
transmitted by you in due time with the other
It is proper that the Claimants in their cases should
be aware, that their Claims not being included
in the Guaranty of the 2d Article of the compro
mise with Georgia, the consideration of them
by Congress will be barred by the 3d Article of
to the period of one year from the assent of
Georgia to the instrument of Compromise

In calling for the information
asked from the Claimants, not included in the
Guaranty, it will occur to you as proper to use
a language neither committing the Government
on one hand, nor damping expectations too much
on the other. It being uncertain what degree
of discretion & liberality may be exercised by Con-
gress, the present measure must be confined to
the collection of such information as may en-
lighten or influence their decision. With the

the m[illegible] ... of ...
to which ... of
persons who ... one
clap. It may be ... known
general sentiments and expectations prev-
ving in the Territory on this subject

Should there be claims of any oth-
er kind in the Territory which have escaped
the above enumerations, you will oblig-
e the Commissioners by adding a particular ac-
count of them, as well by communicating your
estimates of the Quantity of Territory
not claimed by the Indians, of the aggre-
gate quantity of Land covered by claims under
the 2d article of the Compromise, and the
aggregate of all other claims

It need not be suggested to you th-
at where records of claims exist, suitable ex-
tracts from them will be proper; nor that it will
be expedient to complete and transmit
your communications with as little delay
as possible

It only remains for me to ask
your excuse for the heavy task which is im-
posed on you, and to assure you

Copy of a letter from the Governor to the Secretary of State

Mississippi Territory Town of Washington
September 12. 1802

Sir

On the 8th Instant, I had the honor to receive your communication of the 20th of July, and on the next day, I published a Land Bill, addressed "to persons claiming Lands within the Mississippi Territory, and of which the enclosed is a Copy——

In my publication, I have endeavoured to comply literally with your instruction, and I trust the Language which is used, cannot be construed as committing the Government on hand, or damping expectation, too much on the other.

There exist a variety of Titles for Lands in this Territory, and I fear, it will not be in my power, to detail them with accuracy, but I shall carefully collect the best information within my reach, and will make a General communication to you, on the subject early in November.

I find that some designing persons are endeavouring to impose on the Citizens, as

junction, that the filing of their claims will
operation to them, I do not yet know; how far
they may succeed; It is however probable, that
they may excite some alarm, and prevent
favourable return of Claims.

Upon the receipt of your letter, which
addressed to you, on the 20th of January la
was received a Communication made
me, by Mr Harding, at that time, the Attorn
General for this District, stating the situa
on of some Claims for Land. A Copy of M
Harding's Communication having been
Mislaid in my office, I will thank y
to furnish me with one from your file
With great respect and
esteem I am Sir
Your most ob. Se
(Signed) William C. C. Clairb
The Hon.ble James Madison
Secy of State

From State
Within the
Mississippi Territory.

The agreement for an amicable settlement of boundaries with the State of Georgia, which was entered into on the twenty-fourth day of April last, between the Commissioners on the part of the United States, and those on the part of Georgia, duly authorized for that purpose, and on which agreement, Georgia has ceded to the United all her title and claim to the Jurisdiction & soil of the Lands situated within the Mississippi Territory, was ratified by the Legislature of that State, on the 16th day of June last.

By the second article of the aforesaid agreement it is declared — "That all persons who, on the twenty seventh day of October, one thousand, seven hundred and ninety five, were actual settlers within the territory thereby ceded, shall be confirmed in all the grants, legacy and fully executed prior to that day, by the former British Government of West Florida, or by the Governor of Spain, and in the Claims, which may be derived from any actual survey or settlement, made under the authority of the State of Georgia, entitled "An act for laying out the Territory of Yazoo, situate on the Waters of Mississippi, and within the bounds of that State." Which Treaty became ratified on the twenty seventh day of February one thousand seven hundred and eighty five,

The undersigned has been directed to furnish the
respective claimants with the best information
he can obtain, as to the nature of the claims record
ed in the said Articles of agreement with Geo
rgia to enable him, to render his information up
this subject as accurate and full as possible, he is
instructed to receive the claims falling under the
article aforesaid, to sit from to the first day of
November next, in the office of the Clerk of the
County Court, in which the lands claimed is situ
the particular authority and extent of their respec
claims, and the chain of title, derived to the pres
Claimant from the Original title; taking care to
note particularly their date

The Clerks will be directed to give due atten
at their respective offices, until the day above men
tioned; and it is hoped, that the Claimants whose
interests is so immediately involved, will punctually
attend to this invitation

There are other Claims for Land in this Territo
which the undersigned has also been instructed to
enquire into and report the same, to the department
of State, among which are.

First. The Claims (if any) derived under the
French Government, previous to the peace of 1763
seventeen hundred and sixty three

Second. Claims derived under the British and
French Government, previous to the twenty seventh
day of October, one thousand, seven hundred and ninety
five, but not accompanied by actual settlement

at that [illegible]

[illegible] Govern-

ment under [illegible] thousand

seven hundred [illegible]

Fourth, Claims founded on the third section of the act of Georgia, commonly called the Bourbon Act, and not accompanied by actual survey or settlement [illegible] the twenty seventh day of October one thousand seven hundred and ninety five and which said third section is hereunto annexed

The Claimants, in these cases, are also required to file with the Clerk of the County, where the land is situated, a particular statement of the nature and extent of their Claims, by the first day of November next; and they shall be transmitted with the others to the department of State. As those descriptions of Claims are not included in the guaranty of the second article of the Compromise with Georgia, the consideration of them by Congress, will be barred by the third article after the period of one year from the agreement of Georgia to the Instrument of compromise. It is therefore highly necessary, that the persons interested, should without delay, make known their Claims, in order that the same may be referred to the Government.

[illegible] may be a doubt as to the form of stating the Claims to be filed, may receive information upon application to the [illegible]

Extract from an Act, entitled "An Act
for laying out a tract of land situate on
the Ohio river, and within this Commonw
of this State, into a County to be called
Bourbon

Sect. 3. And whereas it will not be proper
at present, to open a Land Office, for the
purpose of granting out the Lands in the
said County, but nevertheless it is here
enacted and declared, that whenever that
measure shall be determined upon by this or
a future Legislature, there shall be a
right of preference, agreeable to the la
of this State, reserved to any, all and every
honest and friendly professor and professors
of the said Lands, who shall be citizens
of either of the United States, or the subje
of any power that was friendly to the Unite
States, during the war: Provided such pers
do actually live on and cultivate the said
Lands, or a part thereof, and shall apply and
present themselves on equal terms with
other petitioners.

[redacted] Letter from Govnor to Cate
[redacted]
[redacted] 1802

Sir

I [redacted] having appointed you Keeper of the [redacted] County Court, you will be pleased to deliver to him, all the Records and papers belonging to that Office

Accept my thanks for the faithful services you have rendered the publick.—

I am Sir with respect Your most ob.t Serv.t

William C.C. Claiborne

John Walker Esqr.

Copy of a Letter from the Govrnor to Captain James Hoggatt of the 1st Regiment of Militia

Natchez September 15th 1802

Sir

Upon your application, Captain Claiborne will deliver to you, twenty two Rifle Guns, which I wish you to dispose of to such of the Militia in your Neighbourhood, as may be in want of Arms upon the following [redacted] Every Citizen applying for a Rifle, must produce a Certificate in writing from his Captain, that he is regularly enrolled in

in his Company and is in want of Arms

2d If he certifies during satisfactory. the Ap

plicant for a Rifle, must pay for the same

four Dollars, in cash, or he must give h

note, with his Captain as security. To the G

vernor of the respective Territory for fo

teen dollars to be paid in cash, or in bo

delivered at Hoggatts Fort, at cash price

on or before the first day of February 180

The Certificates and Notes which may

be received you will be pleased carefully to pre

Accept my best wishes

I am Sir

Very respectfully

Your ob.t Serv.t

Capt. James Hoggatt William C. C. Claiborne

Copy of a Letter from the Secretary of

to the Governor

War Department

28th July 1812

Sir

I have the honor to inform y

Excellency that the Secretary of War is

authorized for the United States of Chickasaw

Bluffs, and will immediately proceed to the

place of his destination. I enclose my

[illegible] Dearborn.

His Excellency [illegible]

Copy of a Letter from the Governor to the Secretary of War

Michipsippi Territory
Town of Washington September 17th 1802

Sir

I have the honor to enclose you a "general abstract of the number and strength "of the Militia of the Michipsippi Territory "as taken from the several Inspection Returns "for the Month of August 1802." - You will perceive, that many of the Companies are yet unarmed, but I flatter myself, this Inconvenience will soon be remedied - The Returns (which were sent me) are incorrect - Estimation among the Militia, and the probability is, they will be held, upon the Condition, I have prescribed, which are as Follow: -

1st. First Every citizen applying for a State

Rifle, must [illegible] a Certificate [illegible]
writing from his Captain, stating that he
is regularly enrolled in his Company,
and in want of Arms.

Second. The Certificate being satisfac-
ory, the applicant for a Rifle, must
pay for the same, fourteen Dollars in
Cash, or he must give his note for the
sum with his captain as security, to the
Governor of the Territory, to be paid in
Money or in cotton, at cash price, on or
before the first day of February next.

Upon these conditions I
suppose the Rifles will speedily be dispo-
of to the Militia.

I fear the price is too much redu
to remunerate the United States, the Or
ginal cost, but I found it necessar
to fix upon a low price, to induce
citizens to purchase.

As to the Muskets, they are in
demand among our citizen Soldiery,
and I cannot persuade them of their
utility — I have received from New
Orleans 163 Rifle Guns and a part of
stand of Muskets, from Fort Adams
which are at present expected in

[redacted] the Brigade [redacted] surveyed
the [redacted] upon
to me [redacted] upon
this day.

In looking over the Militia returns you will discern that a Brigadier General [redacted] complete the Establishment [redacted] I will thank you to mention to the President of the United States, the propriety of appointing this officer.

The Brigade is at present commanded, by Colonel Benjah Ogden of the first Regiment of the Gloucester Militia, and I must ask the liberty, to recommend this Gentleman, for the appointment of Brigadier General, he is an honest Man, and a valuable officer, was a Captain in the New-Jersey line, during the Revolutionary War, and served with reputation, and from his Military experience and Zeal for the good of the service, I have already received from him, much assistance in [redacted] Organizing the Militia.

[redacted] Letter of the 18th of July, concerning the Appointment of the Inspector [redacted] the United States Militia

234 the Chickasaw Bluffs, I shall
honor to receive, and I shall with promp
titude and pleasure give to Mr Clark
such advice and assistance, on his ap
plication as circumstances or situation
may render necessary and proper"

The Report of the Dismemberment
fortune which I mentioned to you
in my last is confirmed - It seems
he was wounded in a Duel, at the
of Bear Creek by a Captain Johnson
of the Army, and by the last accou
his life was despaired of.

Accept Sir assurances of m
Respectful consideration
William C. C. Claiborne

The Hon^ble
A. Dearborn

Copy of a Letter from the Governor to
Mathew Tierney Clerk of Claiborne Cou

Town of Washing^n Septem
19^th 1802

Sir

Twelve or fourteen days ago, I
addressed you a letter in [redacted] you were
invited to attend at my House on Sun
of [illegible] instant From your

[redacted] the [redacted]
My [redacted] Instructions [redacted]
My [redacted] the [redacted] pack
ing a Sheaf [redacted] your House

The Packet contains thirty
four Bills, addressed to the Claimants of
Land in this Territory, and your Instructions
which are also herewith forwarded, will point
out to you, the part I wish you to act

I am aware that the task imposed upon
you, will prove troublesome, but I am per
suaded you will execute it with fidelity

With great respect and regard
I am Sir
Your Hble Serv.t
William C.C. Claiborne

Followers—Instructions [redacted] were given by the Governor to the Clerks of the County Courts within the Mississippi Territory

1 You are furnished with thirty four Bills, addressed to Persons claiming Lands within the Mississippi Territory which you will have posted up, at the most public places in your County

2 You will let it be known, where your Office will be kept, and you will attend your self at the Office, or have some person there to act for you, every day, Sundays excepted, to until the first of November next,

3d You will file no claim under [illegible]
of the Classes as they are arranged
to the exception of the Claim

4th If the Claims are delivered in you will
Class them under their several heads in ma
ner following towit

Settlers on the 27th of October 1795 claim
under Spanish Grants

Settlers on the 27th of October 1795 cla
ing under British Grants

Settlers on the 27th of October 1795, cla
ing under an act of Georgia commo
called the Bourbon Act

These different claims you will carefully
put up into separate Bundles

5th With respect to the other descrip
of Claims mentioned in the Hand Bi
you will, as they are delivered, class the
in the same regular manner and in
different heads and place them in
different Bundles

6th Upon application you will giv
information as to the [illegible] described
in Classes, in the list form, the Hand
Bill will be your best guide, therein

[redacted] Claim [redacted] and the date
of the Bills must be [redacted] Notice
and when a claim [redacted] Strength
en the Claim the [redacted] when the Settle
ment was made must be stated

6th If a loose and uncertain discrip
tion of a Claim should be offered you
will point out its defect, and endeav
our to have them rectified

8th On the Morning of the first of
November you will set out yourself
or send a confidential person with
the Claims which may be filed to my
Office

Copy of a Letter from David Rawn
Pr. Clk. to the Governor

Treasury Department
Comptroller's office
August 13th 1802

Sir

In consequence of the Comptroll
er's absence from the seat of Government,
it becomes mine to acknowledge the
receipt of your letter, dated the 12th ultimo,
accompanied by an account for
Treasury

Stationary furnished your Office
six Months ending on the 30 of June
As the Accounts for Stationary and
other contingencies have not been
rendered by and settled in the name of
the Secretary of the Treasury pursuant Law
law it appears necessary for the Tr
sury to be informed whether this be a
part of, or in addition to the Claims
which may be exhibited for contin
cies, by that Office. Be good enough
to favor me with an early reply

I have the honor to be Sir
With great respect
your ob.t Serv.t
David Rowan
Dr. & Ck

William C. C. Claiborne Esquire

Copy of a letter from the Governor to
Rowan Dr. & Ck.

Mississippi Territory
Town of Natchez Nov.r 21st 18

Sir I have the honor to inform
ed the Department that in consequ
I have thought proper to

account rendered for Stationary furnished my office, for [redacted], and one, on the 20th of [redacted] not be included in my [redacted] which may be exhibited for contingencies, by the Secretary for this Territory

From the commencement of the present year, Stationary has been furnished my office, upon my own order and if it be not inconsistent with the Rule of proceeding at the Treasury I shall in future render a General account of expenditures for Station ary office - Rent, and other contingent expenses in this Territory

It appears to me, that the Govn or ought to be held responsible for the contingent expences of this Department and that it might be proper for all charges falling under that head to be rendered by and settled in the name of the Govnor

I have the honor to be Sir
With great respect
Your obt Servt

[redacted]

Hon. [redacted] Secretary
[redacted] Department

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October 1st 1862

During the last three months the Governor has made the following appointments

In Adams County

Jacob Guice
James Nelson
F. L Claiborne } Justices of the Peace

David Ker } Clerk of the County Court vice Walker removed

William Nelson } Coroner vice W. Brooks resigned

In Wilkinson County

Joshua Baker } Coroner

In Claiborne County

Samuel Cook } a Justice of the Peace

In Washington District

Roman Malone } Clerk of the Superior Court

Nathan Perkins } Attorney General

For further appointments during the last three months, reference may be had to the office of the Secretary of State

[illegible] of a Letter from [illegible] dated
the [illegible]

Fort [illegible] 18th 1802

Dear Sir

I received Mr Dodge's letter
to the Secretary, & descended the Falls
[illegible] and the Wabash River, and ar-
rived at Fort Steadart the 11th Inst. where
I found the letter you were so good as to
forward me to that place. The delays
of the officers of that fort detained me
until the 15th, I reached this place a few
minutes since, in season, just to, to avail
myself of the opportunity by Mr Gree-
to drop you this line, and to recommend to
your particular attention the letter in-
closed, the prompt arrival of which to
its destination, is important to the pub-
lic service; my time will not permit
detail, but having advised Mr Dodge my rea-
son Government should be inclosed to
you, it is material you should be in-
formed, that I proceed hence by Water
to [illegible] confluence of the Ohio from
hence the first time the Agent may
have occasion the Indians, there to

remain

[illegible] main not begun from the [illegible] ja
afterwards shall proceed by the shorte
[illegible] to the mouth of the [illegible] Rive
to commence the resurvey and remark
of the [illegible] line. This is my
intention & I can see no obstacle to
the execution, at the same time that I shall
myself, I shall be able to promote
measures, more extensive in their r
sultary consequences to the Territory o
the United States. I have with me t
Indian Goods which you forwarded to
Fort Stoddert, the transport of which
by water 250 Miles beyond this from
will test the Navigation of the Rive
I have found the Alabama better a
safe than the Ohio, tho' not more than
one fourth its width. I am keeping
the water & am aground I shall take
swell of the Ocean with me say mid
high.

I left Charleston a little mo
than a month since and reached N
Orleans, viz. - Sept the 1st & got
to Natchez viz in Bed y from Sept 15

whose [illegible] has been [illegible] before it was
proper [illegible] cleansed, [illegible] for exact
are [illegible]ful & am[illegible] that not
time for more than [illegible] wishes to
& for you and yours

Your Friend

(Signed) Ja Wilkinson

Gov Claiborne

Copy of a Letter from the Governor to
General Wilkinson

Town of Washington
October the 3d 1802

Dear Sir

A few days ago I had the honor
to receive your communication of the 4th
ultimo, together with the Letter inclosed,
which was immediately forwarded to its
destination.

I fear Mr Dinsmore's absence from
the nation, will prove injurious to your
Mission, or at least delay the execution of
your intentions. —

The letter you addressed to Mr Dinsmore
some time since, and which came under
your cover to me, was transmitted to [illegible]
him, with instructions, that if the agent
had not arrived at Petit Coeur, he should
open the Letter, and carefully work it

Contents — those that Mr. Mc Clann
the Choctaw Chiefs, have been alarmed
of your approach, and may hastily
be convened in Council
The only intelligence I have
received from the Government, in rela
tion to your Mission, was contained in
a Letter from the Secretary at War, of
the 9th of June last, speaking on the
subject of the line, the Secretary said
that General Atkinson has received di
rections from this Department to
superintend the preambulating the
boundary line between the Mississip
Territory and the Choctaw nation
but as some doubts arise respecting
this line, he will not proceed in this
Business unless the Choctaws will fur
nish to establish the line which was
agreed on Between the
the British Government in a Treaty

which [illegible] before the
[illegible] Agents
[illegible] Should [illegible] unconnected
with the Choctaws in obtaining their
Consent (and of which you will be informed)
I have to request that you Excellency
will appoint some respectable person to apprise
them as aforesaid, and also to procure Chairs
Men, Packhorses, provision and Stores, on
the most reasonable terms. You Bills on
this Department for any expence which
you may incur in the Business will be
accepted and paid on the latest notice"

So soon therefore as I am informed that
the object of your Mission is accomplished,
I will with promptitude execute the duty
required of me— But previous to making
any Arrangement on my part, it would
afford me great pleasure to confer per-
sonally with you on the subject, and I
do hope, you ~~will~~ may find it convenient
to pay me a visit before the Return
of the Line is commenced— I would
willingly meet you at the mouth of the
Yazoo River but there is at present
no [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

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I communicate to the Baptist
of the Choctaw Nation of his journ
I am glad you can
to the Nation the Indians goods which
I forwarded to Fort Stoddart and I
ter myself, you have directed their distri
In consequence of the absen
from the Nation of the agent, I am u
timely informed of the present Sta
of the Choctaw agency, I sincere
regret the misfortune which befel
Mr Lyon more on his Journey but
his conduct surely was very imprud
Accept my best wishes
I am Dear Sir
Your Friend & Serv
William C. C. Claiborne
General Wilkinson

Copy of a Letter from Col° M°Kee to
the Governor
Mount Dexter Sept 12. 1802
Sir
Information has been given me
that the white people are [illegible] in advance
the Rocky spring Eastward - That place
heretofore been chiefly generally consid

I Commanded from [redacted] which
I have transmitted [redacted] may
[redacted] is [redacted] remarked,
[redacted] at this time
will create [redacted] in the nation and
tend to [redacted] the commissioners
in returning it

I am induced to obtrude these
observations on your excellency from
a report that these new settlements
have excited considerable uneasiness
in the upper town District, to such a
degree that I fear the settlers will not
be safe till the line is ascertained

Mr Dunmore has not yet arrived
here and my last accounts are unfavor-
able to the Hope of his recovery

I am respectfully
Your Excellency
obedient servant
John McKee

His Excellency [Signed]
Governor Blackburne

Copy of a Letter from the governor
to Lt Colo Gabriel Burnet

New Mahon October 3d 1771

Sir

I have this moment received

information, that the Chactaw [illegible] are greatly dissatisfied in consequence of some settlements which the [illegible] late made in advance of the Rocky Spring Road, and that the lives and properties of their Settlers are in Danger of attack.

You will therefore proceed without delay to the Settlements alluded to, advise the people of their danger, and direct them in my name, to retire with their families and property to some place at least one mile on this side of the Rocky Spring.

The old line of limits, between the United States, and the Chactaw Nation, will shortly be retraced. An Officer, has generally proceeded among the Indians, that the line would keep at or near the Rocky Spring and consequently any extension of Settlement at this time, cannot [illegible] to excite uneasiness in the Nation and may [illegible] the [illegible] in [illegible] the [illegible] Boundary

[illegible] this to the Govern
[illegible] Colonie,
[illegible] last, with
[illegible] the receipt
my [illegible], I shall
of my taking any further measures on
this occasion —

You will advise me of the result
of your interview with the Settlers.

With respect and regard
I am Sir
Your Most Obt. Hble. Servt.
William C. C. Claiborne

Col. Daniel Burnet

Copy of a Letter from the Governor to
the Secretary of War
Near Natchez October 4th 1802

Sir

Enclosed is a letter which I have
received from General Wilkinson and a
Copy of my reply, as also a Communica-
tion to me from John McKee late Agent
for the Chactaw Nation, and a copy of a letter
which (in consequence of Mr McKee's informa-
tion) I addressed to Col. Daniel Bur-
net of the 4th Regiment of Infantry

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Sir

Your Ser

William C. C. Claiborne

The Hon.ble

H. Dearborne

Copy of a letter from the Governor to the agent of the Chickasaw Nation

Natchez October 4th 1802

Sir,

On yesterday Mr Goodrich deliv
ered to me, your letters of the 27th 28th 29th
of August, and of the 8th ultimo, and I
thank you for the information they con
tain.

I am pleased with your efforts to a
vance the Happiness of the Chickasaw
and I flatter myself, that the Habi
of Industry and of civil life will
soon acquire such an ascendancy
in the nation, as to banish from th
land, that attachment to Idleness
which has hitherto, so much retard
the progress of civilization

While you exercise all the
Means in your power, to create the
Chickasaw Men to agricultural

[redacted] ... [redacted] ... [redacted] ... [

the cattle [illegible] soon be commenced by
its utility [illegible] Indians, their
wants will be amply supplied [illegible] up
more moderate terms than they could
be procured from private adven
turers; the article of Iron for mill
and Iron work may generally be
procured at the Posts, and for
a price, not more than sufficient
to remunerate the United States
the Original cost
So much of the Indian inter
course Law, as relates to the purch
of horses from Indians, it may be
well to give a liberal construction
and in the case, which you enumera
where travellers thro' the Wilderness
had their Horses stolen, strayed or tak
they might be permitted, to obtain
supply in the Nation, as a matter
of necessity, but you will take ca
that this privilege be not carried
too far, and the whole system
of the Law evaded altogether
I am aware, that your Inst

On the Receipt of [illegible]
[illegible] you
[illegible] and ex
[illegible] you [illegible] may be
urged as Reasons for an increase of
Salary, and will no Doubt receive
their due weight from the Secretary
at war to whom your Letter to me
shall be transmitted

You ought to exercise all your
influence to bring about a peace be-
tween Chickasaws Chactaws, and the
Osages. — By the Treaty with Spain
the United States are bound to re-
strain the Indians residing within
their limits from waring with those
Tribes, situated within the
Spanish Territory — You will there-
fore persevere in your efforts to effect
an amicable settlement of differ-
ences, and Request you to assure
the Chickasaw King, his chiefs and
warriors that the President of the
United States has no greater wish
than to see the Chickasaw Nation

happy and at peace with all the world

[redacted]

[redacted] great respect

your [redacted] Serv.t

William [redacted]

Sam.l Mitchell Esq.

Agent for the Chickasaws

Copy of a letter from the Gover

or to the Secretary of War

Near Natchez October 5th 180

Sir,

I have the honor to transmit

you several letters, which I have lately re

ceived from the Agent for the Chickasaw

nation, together with a Copy of my an

Mr Mitchell seems desirous to be re

munerated certain expences, which he

has incurred in erecting a house for h

accommodation and also solicits an

increase of salary, the Reasons offe

in support of his request, are contain

in his letter inclosed

It seems that Maj.r George Colbe

a man of great influence and deservedly so

among the Chickasaws desires that his son should

be educated in the Northern union The

Pat[illegible]

[illegible] so soon,
as [illegible] was received, it should
be [illegible] to him

I have understood that Mr Bowmore
[illegible] recovered of wound, and proceeded
on his journey to the Choctaw

with sentiments of [illegible] respect

I am Sir

Your most ob.t Hble Ser.t

William C. C. Claiborne

His Excy
Gov.r Dearborn
Secty at war

Copy of a letter from Joshua Wingate Jun.r
Clerk to the Govenor

War Department August 24. 1802

Sir

The Secretary of War being absent,
I have the honor to acknowledge the Receipt
of your favor of the 20th ult.o covering a draft
of a letter for a Garrison.

I am respectfully your
Hum.e Ser.t

Joshua Wingate Jun.r Clerk

His Excellency
Wm C. C. Claiborne

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Copy of a letter from Silas Dinsmore
to the Secretary of War dated Choctaw Agency
September 1st 1802

Sir,

By detention & change of route to the Choctaws, I am now short of cash, an article difficult to be procured in the Chickasaw woods. Mr Denton the bearer has however furnished me with forty five dollars to answer my present demands, for which sum I have the liberty, without your further order to draw on you at sight, I request you to honour the draft as it is to meet the Contingent expences of the Indian department under your superintendance. I expect in about six weeks to pay my respects to your Excellency in person, & receive from you instructions, & such information & advice as you may please to give relative to the Choctaws & their connection.

I am Sir
Your very obedient humble
Silas Dinsmore
agent to the Choctaws

His Excellency
Governor Claiborne

To Willie

Governor

1802.

avail ourselves of the first leisure to Report to your Excellency, relative to the occurrences at the small pox camp, which was erected in the Spring, and for which you were pleased to appoint us the attending Physicians. The persons carried to this Camp, were Daniel Cameron, Peter M Gachan, Benjamin Dill, John Chandelin, — Canary, Charles Williams, Nathan Thompson, a black man in the charge of Mr. Jeremiah North, Mr. Crab, a young man under Colo: Gaither, and a negro boy, belonging to Mr. M. Cabe. —

The two first of the above mentioned persons were as they came inoculated for the small pox, in New Orleans, and broke out with it on their arrival at this place. The next six took it in the natural way in the aforementioned towns or other parts of his Catholic Majesty's dominions, and broke out with it on their journey to, or arrival in the Territory. The last three, were, as your Excellency knows, inoculated in this town.

The five inoculated persons had the disease lightly; the other six who took it by contagion had it in general to a degree of dangerous, and in two cases of fatal severity. The deceased are Charles Williams and Nathan Thompson, the former a citizen of Kentucky, the latter of this Territory. Which your Excellency perhaps recollects. The loss of these

unfortunate

unfortunate [redacted] your [redacted] and
[redacted] the [redacted] the [redacted]
that the [redacted] has been [redacted]
to prevent [redacted] the [redacted] agency's
so [redacted], for the comfort and [redacted] of the
afflicted, has been evinced as well by personal
attendance, at the scene of their sufferings as by
official acts of Executive authority. To the humane
and provident attentions of Mr. W Cormick, also
they are much indebted, for a supply of provisions
suitable to their respective conditions, and of those
who were subordinately employed for their assistance
we know of no injurious neglect of duty. Now the
whole, from all that we could discover from our daily
attendance, we conceive that no ans[illegible] has sustained
suffered through inattention, whatever temporary in-
conveniences, the occasion naturally unavoidably
involved.

In addition to the eleven cases at the camp
already mentioned, four others were afterwards
discovered, which appear to have been caused by
imprudent and obstinate visits to the Camp, and by
a premature and unpermitted departure of a
patient from the same. The first instance alluded
to Mrs ___ who took the disease herself, and afterwards
communicated it to her negro boy who as we have
heard, broke out with it on the Bayou Pierre. The
other alludes to John Chamberlin (a little boy) from
whom there is great probability, the infection was
communicated to Miss Patsey Ritchie from whom
again it was communicated to her father
Mr Ritchie.

While reposing to your Excellency the
[illegible]

[redacted] entitled to the
[redacted] certificate. The man, (who is an
inhabitant of Kentucky) was carried to the camp
while labouring under an attack of great severity,
and received all that attention which his situation
required; but no sooner had he experienced
the salutary effect of his humane treatment than
he availed himself of his recovering strength and
clandestinely departed leaving the burthen of his
expenses to fall on the government, not with standing
he carried with him several hundred dollars.

The well known exertions which your
Excellency, used to preserve this Territory, from the
small pox, and the influence you have exercised
in favor of ~~inoculation~~ vaccination, induce
~~to believe~~
that you will be highly gratified to hear, that the
latter has prevented, the ravages of the former,
by a very general circulation. We conceive that
two thirds of the inhabitants, must have undergone
vaccination; and in no one case, that we have
heard of has it produced mortality; it is not easy to
say, what might have been the fate of this menaced
country, without the advantage of this invaluable pre
ventative; but it would seem ~~that~~ as if its opportune
arrival among us was something providential.
No case of small-pox, as far as we know, exists now
in the Territory. The vaccine virus, from our indispensible
attention to the sick, we fear is extinct also: it was,
however, long enough in existence for all those who
wished to experience its beneficial influence.

[redacted]

2 [illegible] permit us [illegible] ourselves of the [illegible]
casion to [illegible] with sentiments of [illegible]
respect your [illegible]

[illegible]

To Doctors D & W. Baltimore } Town of Washington
October 5: 1802.

Gentlemen,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of the 1st instant.

The establishment of the hospital camps was resorted to, as a means of securing the people of the Territory, from an afflicting, and not unfrequently a mortal malady — the timely introduction of the vaccine disease, was esteemed the only effectual barrier, which could have been interposed, and I am happy to learn, that so many of my fellow citizens, have availed themselves, of this invaluable preventative against the ravages of the small-pox.

I regret the death of two young men you have mentioned, but it is a pleasure to me, to know, that every attention was paid them, which benevolence dictated, and their situation admitted of.

Accept gentlemen, my thanks, for the attention and humanity, with which the duty assigned you has been discharged and I pray you to be assured of my great respect and sincere esteem

I am &c

Signed — William C. C. Claiborne

Copy of a Letter from [illegible]
to [illegible] Esqr
dated [illegible] January ... —

Town of Washington Dist of Col. 18[illegible]

Sir,

You will proceed without
delay to the County of Washington
on your arrival, you will announce your
self to the Major Commanding the 3rd Re
giment of Militia, and desire him to con
vene the officers of the Regiment, at some
convenient place, when you will attend,
and perform the Duties required of you
by Law.

You will endeavour to impress
upon the minds of both officers, and
privates, the safety which a well regula
ted Militia, would afford to the Distr
rict of Washington; and to excite that
Military spirit, which can alone give
respect and energy, to our Militia

System.

Yours

If you will [illegible] me an answer [illegible]
Washington [illegible] will see all the subject
to return [illegible] letter by the [illegible]
November [illegible] or you can [illegible] at Na
or if you will appoint [illegible] yourself
the first chance to make a go
Penal Report of the State of the
Militia in Washington County
Wishing you an agreeable Tour
I remain!
With great respect,
Your Hble Servt
William C. C. Claiborne

Letter from the Governor to Ho
David Hunt, Wholesale Gro
and Distiller for Mr. Choctaw
Choctaw.

Jno. of Washington County

October

Sir

Enclosed has been sent
the Letter Card, by David Graff
that a party of Choctaw Indians
Creek Nation, [illegible] Land Commiss

[redacted] Mr Grafton
for the purpose of bringing them to his council
and Sirck you to proceed to their camp,
and represent to them the impropriety
of their Conduct.

I should be glad to have those Fellows brought before me, and Sirck you to have recourse to all the artifice in your power, to induce them to visit me.

Mr Grafton and two or three other men will accompany you, if you desire it, but you must not permit the Indians to be abused.

I will reward you liberally for the trouble you may take in this Business.

If it is possible, without abusing the Indians, I hope you will bring them to me.

I am Sir
Your Hble Servt
William C. C. Claiborne

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The [illegible] upon
[illegible] owing
[illegible]
Town of [illegible] 13th 1802

Sir

You will receive immediately
by the Indian Chief, delivered to him
the enclosed talk, receive their ans
and report the same to me this forenoon

I am Sir
your Hble Servt
William C.C. Claiborne

A talk from William C.C. Cla
Governor and Commander in chief o
the Mississippi Territory, to some Ch
the Indians, who are encamped near
to Natchez!

Brothers!

I sent my Interpret
David Bunny to you, on this morn
with a request that you would com
and see me, but you have thought
fit, to decline doing so.

I write this to you Bro

my Answer [illegible] I am informed
on [illegible] to
a [illegible] one
of [illegible] another, and
threatened to kill him, for his mischief.

I wanted to have you and the white man face to face, in order, that I might learn the truth: But it seems you will not come near me.—

Now Brother, I must inform you, that I do not allow my people to treat a red man a miss, nor will I suffer a red man, to treat any of my people a miss.

I will forget and forgive your late bad Conduct, upon one condition, which is, that you immediately depart for your own Land, and do no more mischief.

My Interpreter David Perry will bring to me, your answer to this Talk.

William C. C. Claiborne

Town of Washington
October 13th 1802.

Esqr [redacted] Lewis

Judge [redacted]

[redacted] 02

Dr Sir,

Permit me to introduce [redacted]
your acquaintance and friendly attent
the Bearer Mr Lewis Kerr - This gent
man attends you, to request an examin
tion touching his fitness to practice a
an attorney in the several Courts o
Law and Equity in this Territory

Mr Kerr was desirous to wait up
you prior to your Departure for Washing
but was prevented by indisposition.

During your absence Mr Kerr's he
was in a measure restored, & wishing h
qualify as an Attorney, at the
County Court of Adams, upon his
producing to me the most satisfacto
proofs, that he had passed much time
in the study of the Law & had been
admitted as an attorney in many of
the Courts, I granted him a licence,
having previously executed a promise

that I [redacted] would [redacted] before
you [redacted] congratulations
on your safe return home, accompa
nied with my best wishes

I am Dr Sir
Your most respectfully
Your Mo: Ob. [redacted] Serv.

The Hon.ble
Judge Lewis

William C. C. Claiborne

October 19th 1802

The Governor Issued a Warrant upon the
Treasurer General for twenty four Dollars
in favour of Phipps, being the sum
due him for his services as a Marker of
the Road from the Natural Boundary
line, to the Town of Natchez, as ap
peared by a Certificate he produced,
Signed by Hugh Davis and John Collins
two of the Commissioners for Layeing out
Said Road

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Copy of a letter from the Sec
ry to the Secretary of War

Nashville 20th October 180
Office of Superintendant Indian
Affairs

Sir

I shall in a few days meet a small
draft of the Nation Chickasaws, on account
of the Chactaw Agency, and to defray
some contingent expences which have
arisen in the Indian department
I have drawn a Bill upon you for
one hundred Dollars payable at sight
pay sight to Samuel Potter Steward
&c. or order

I am Sir,
Very respectfully
your Most Ob. Ser.
William C.C. Claiborne

The Hon. Secretary of War
City of Washington

Copy of [illegible]
the Governor
&c.

[illegible] 2d Th 1802

Office of Superintendent for Indian affairs

Ex: 100 Dollars

Sir

At five days sight of this my first of exchange (second of same tenor and date unpaid) please to pay to Samuel Postlethwait & Co or Order, one hundred Dollars value Received which charge as per advice to account of

Sir
your Ob. Servt
William C. C. Claiborne

The Hon.ble
Henry Dearborn
Secy of War
Washington

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Copy of a [illegible] from Wm C. C. Claiborne
to the Secretary of State dated 1802

I have to announce to you that
this day the Port is shut against foreign
commerce and not against foreign
commerce only, but against the
American Deputies in this City

In the decree issued upon the
public places no mention is made of
any other place appointed for a Depot

You will use this information
as you may think proper

I am with great respect
Your most ob. Humble Ser
Wm C. C. Claiborne
Gov. of the Mississippi Territory

P.S. The Intendant has just now
refused permission to some Geo. Mary
claimed for Fort Stoddard, to pass thro
the Spanish Fort free of duty. I
shall immediately petition the Govern
on the subject, and will communi
the result to you.

Copy of a Letter from [redacted] to
Wm. B. [redacted]
Mr. [redacted]

[redacted] 28th 1802

Sir

Your Letter of the 18th Instant, reached me this Evening — The publication of the Intendants is indeed an extraordinary Measure —

The 22d Article of the Treaty between the Us States and Spain, is explicit, and cannot admit of but one construction.

Before his Catholic Majesty can (with good faith) withdraw his permission to the citizens of the U States to deposit their Merchandize, and effect in the port of New Orleans, he must assign some other place on the Banks of the Mississippi for an Equivalent Establishment

Will you be good enough to present in person, the enclosed Letter to the Governor, It is on the subject of the Intendants publication

Your Letter to me I shall transmit by express, to the Secretary of State

I [illegible] than the present

[illegible] temporary

[illegible] any greater Respect

I am Sir

Your Mo. Ob. Serv.

William C. C. Claiborne

Wm. C. Harding

U. States at the

Vice consul in the Port of New Orleans

Copy of a letter from the Govern

to the Governor & Intendant of the Provin

of Louisiana

Natchez October 28 / 802

Sir/

I have this day been informed

that in a Proclamation issued on the

16th Instant, by the Intendant of the

Province of Louisiana, it was annou

that the Citizens of the United State

shall no longer be permitted to deposit their

Merchandizes and effects in the Port of

New Orleans

Information of an event so unl

peculiarly interesting to the Citizens

the U. States as to force a forcible

the Treaty of Friendship, Limits and Na

vigation between the United States of

America, and the King of Spain, and

Spain adverting to the 22d Article of

found it [illegible] from
[illegible] to [illegible] from
[illegible] to [illegible] than
[illegible] and [illegible] from
[illegible] to [illegible] from there
without paying any [illegible] duty than
a fair price for the hire of the Ship,
and his M[illegible]ty promises either to
continue this permission if he finds
during that time that it is not prej-
udicial to the Interest of Spain, or
if he should not agree to continue
it there, he will assign to them, or
another part of the Banks of the Mis-
sissippi an equivalent Establishment.

I have here quoted the words of the
Treaty, and find them too explicit to re-
quire comment, or to admit of a Doubtful
construction— If therefore his Cath.
Mc Majesty has discontinued his permis-
on to the Citizens of the United States
to deposit their Merchandizes and
effects at the Port of New Orleans,
[illegible] Procedures the great Amount
[illegible] [illegible] and [illegible] the
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

to the Treaty [illegible] an equivalent establishment

[illegible] this enquiry is so interesting to the Commerce of the United States, and to the welfare of the Western Country, that I must request your Excellency to favour me with an early answer

Accept assurances of the great respect and high consideration

With which I am

Your Excellency's

Most Obedient Servant

William C. C. Claiborne

His Excellency

Manuel de Salcedo

Governor General of the Province of Louisiana

To James Madison Esquire
Secretary of State

Natchez
October 29th 1802.

Sir

I have the honor to enclose you a letter which I last evening received from Mr. Hulings Vice Consul for the United States at the Port of New Orleans, together with a translated [illegible] from extracts from a publication made by Mr. Ventura Morales Intendant of the province of Louisiana dated October 16. 1802.

[illegible] announces that the Port of New Orleans is shut against us, and commerce and the American People

[illegible]

Proclamation, whilst [redacted] the Limits of the [redacted] by Authority [redacted] Spain, [redacted] which, as herewith enclosed, I request you to communicate, are this day received from the Governor General of the Province of Louisiana.

The late act of the Spanish Government at N. Orleans, has excited considerable agitation in that City and its vicinity. It has inflicted a severe wound upon the Agricultural and Commercial interest of this Territory, and must prove no less injurious to all the Western Country.

There being at present an interruption in the Post between this Territory and Tennessee, and supposing it of importance, that the Government should be early apprised of the late event at Orleans, I have forwarded this letter, by express, to Nashville, where it will be deposited in the mail.

I am Sir,

With sentiments of great respect & esteem

Your Mo. Ob. Serv.

(Signed) Wm. C. C. Claiborne

(Cross)

To James Madison Esquire, Secretary } Natchez March 1802.

Sir

I have now the Honor to reply more particularly to yours Letter of the 20th of July last, and to lay before you such information, as I have been enabled to collect, relative to the various objects of your enquiries.

In conformity to your request the claimants of Lands (of the descriptions you mention) were invited by public advertisement to file prior to the first day of November, before the proper County Officers, the Clerks of the different County Courts, the particular Authority and extent of their respective claims, and the chain of Title derived to the present claimants from the Original Title.

I had flattered myself, that the arrangement with this invitation would have been such, as to have afforded grounds for accurate estimates, But from various causes, the returns are not so general as I had wished. Some few claimants, whose titles, I have reason to believe, are fully and legally executed, have neglected to state them, either through inattention, or from inaccommodating dispositions, and there are others, who have avoided exhibiting their claims (probably from an unwillingness to expose their weakness, and a fear produced by an report, which prevails designing characters misrelated, with industry, that the sale for titles was intended to make their immediate [illegible]

with a view to appris[illegible] the relative
claims which accompany [illegible] not entirely
(A) complete - I will [illegible] enquiries
in the order, you have [illegible] mean.

First. With respect to the [illegible] Territory both on
the Mississippi and the Mobile, which has been relin-
quished by the Indians?

Until the boundary line between the
United States and the Choctaw Indians, shall have
been traced and plainly marked, (a work, which
I understand will shortly be executed under the
direction of General Wilkinson) the quantity of
land, to which the Indian claim has been extinguished
cannot be correctly ascertained, but from the best in-
formation in my possession, I do conceive that there
may be on the Mississippi, two thousand five hundred
square miles, or about one million six hundred
thousand acres, which, comprehend the counties of
Jefferson, Adams, Wilkinson and Claiborne.

On the Mobile, I do also conjecture, without
pretending to accuracy there may be about four hun-
dred & fifty hundred square miles, or near three millions
of Acres, which compose the County of Washington.

The greater part of the land on the Mississippi,
above alluded to, is fertile, and well adapted to cotton
culture. Of the three millions of Acres on the Mobile
there are supposed to be nearly two millions of pine
barren, little of which is susceptible of cultivation.
Culture is said to be good land and from experience
that much of it may be cultivated to advantage.

A general map of the ceded territory accompanies
this

the [redacted] (Ct.) and a map of the land [redacted] county, to which the Indian cl[aim] has been [redacted] marked (a) [redacted] with [redacted] referred.

Second. With respect to the claims recognized by this second article of agreement with Georgia.

[redacted] with these claims under three distinct heads.

1st. Grants to persons who were actual settlers within the ceded Territory, on the 27: of October 1795, legally and fully executed, prior to that day by the former British Government of West Florida. The packet marked (A) contains all the claims of this description which have been filed.

2nd. Grants to persons who were actual settlers within the ceded Territory on the 27: of October 1795, legally and fully executed prior to that day, by the Government of Spain, (this species of Titles is numerous) the packet marked (B) contains all which have been filed.

3d. Claims of persons who were settlers within the ceded Territory, on the 27: Oct: 1795, derived from actual surveys or settlements made under the laws of Georgia, passed February 7: 1785, commonly called the Bourbon Act. The packet (C.) contains all the claims of this class which have been filed. Few of these claimants allege to have made actual surveys. It would have been unsafe to have done so, during the existence of the Spanish Government, but they rely upon the settlements which they formed by a verbal permission from the then existing Government, and the [illegible]

George Fin the Bien

among the [illegible] government

promise with [illegible] a few

[illegible] (viz) [illegible] different persons

[illegible] and Spaniards who were both settlers

in the Territory on the [illegible] This will be found

to have been occasioned by one of two causes. The British

proprietor did either not reside in the Territory, or being

present had not complied with the conditions of his

patent at the time of regranting by the Spanish

Government.

I have endeavored to inform myself as to the

manner in which Grants were made and completed

under both the British and Spanish Governments.

Under the British Government Grants were sometimes

issued by the King himself, but more frequently by

his Representative the Governor of West Florida. The

former title was conferred for some signal services

rendered by an Individual, the latter title which was

the most usual, was obtained in the following manner

The applicant for land presented a petition to the

Governor and Council of West Florida; upon the

petition being granted, an Order from the Governor,

to the Surveyor General, of the province was given

which was called the Warrant of Survey, when the Survey

was completed and returned to the Secretarys Office

the Patent issued. It frequently happened, that by

delay in the Office occasioned by various circum-

stances, and in some instances by means of the

Grantee [illegible] there persons who held

Warrants and [illegible] Surveys

[illegible] I have

(Proceed)

procured [redacted] a British Patent, which is
herewith [redacted] N.o 3. The manner
of obt[redacted] the Spanish Government
was similar to the last mode of British [redacted] the
applicant [redacted] applied by Petition to the
Spanish Governor [redacted]al of Louisiana, or the Gover-
nor at Natchez. If the petition was granted, an
order in writing was given to the Surveyor Genera
(which was called the Warrant) to survey and pu
the Petitioner in possession of a certain quantity of
land (which was named) and the return of the
Survey, to the Office of the Secretary, for the Province
of Louisiana, at Orleans, a formal Patent, with
the plat and certificate of survey prefixed was
issued, and signed by the Governor General
of the Province of Louisiana. In this case also
delay in the intermediate steps, sometimes prevented
persons, who had procured Warrants of Survey, and
were in complete possession of the land from ob-
taining perfect Patents — A Copy of a Petition
Warrant of Survey, and Spanish Patent is herewith
enclosed marked N.o 4.

I will now proceed to notice other claims not
recognised in the agreement of Compromise but
concerning which you request information.

First. With respect to claims grounded on the
alledged Grant of Georgia, subsequent to the Purchase
at

I cannot [illegible] that any tract of Land is now
occupied by any of those purchasers or by persons
claiming under them — A Copy of an Act [illegible]

letter upon the subject [redacted] date
[redacted] persons
[redacted] tors of
[redacted] lands" addressed [redacted] respectable citizens
in the country, together with [redacted] of the Answer which
was returned thereto, [redacted] enclosed, Marked
N°s 3 & 6.

Second. —— Claims, if any, derived under the French Government previous to the peace of 1763?

Nothing from this source has been filed, and I have it from good authority, that no claims on the part of the Ancient French proprietors ever appeared during the existence of the British or Spanish Government in this Territory. "The frequent contest between the French and the Natchez Aborigines, caused the former to abandon their agricultural possessions, in this quarter of Louisiana, long before the peace of 1763.

Third. —— Claims derived under the British and Spanish Governments, previous to the Treaty of 1795, unaccompanied by actual settlement within the second Territory at the date of the Treaty?

No claims of this description have been filed, nor is it probable there are many such of Spanish Origin:— But it is a matter of great notoriety, that British Claims of this species are numerous. By far the greater part of the valuable improvements and plantations in this Territory, is made upon lands heretofore granted by the British Government of West Florida, but which were regranted by the Spanish Government.

If may be proper in this place to state, that the time allowed by the treaty of peace of 1783 for British

subjects to sell [redacted] settle their lands, was prolonged by the Spanish [redacted] and that [redacted] three years beyond the [redacted] by the Treaty elapsed before the [redacted] Government commenced regranting of Lands, which had formerly belonged to British subjects.

Fourth — Claims derived under the Spanish Government by Grants made subsequent to the Spanish Treaty of 1795.

These may be distinguished into three Classes

1st — Where patents were issued subsequent to the Treaty on Spanish Warrants of survey made previous to the Treaty.—

2nd Where the Warrants as well as the Patents were subsequent to the Treaty.

3rd Where both Warrants and Patents were indeed subsequent to the Treaty, but both antedated, so as to make them appear prior to the Treaty.—

1st Where Patents were issued subsequent to the Treaty on Spanish Warrants of survey granted previous to the Treaty.

I have understood that many Patents of this description were issued altho few have been sued. Warrants had in many instances been obtained from the Spanish Government accompanied with an actual survey and settlement, which agreeable to the Spanish Customs, were recognised as good Titles, even before the Patents issued. Claimants in this situation were often not aware about obtaining their Patents, which could at any time be procured as a matter of course. Hence it happened, that the Treaty caught many in the [illegible] of those

(incomplete)

incorrect rights. [redacted] thought it adviseable
to [redacted] which con-
[redacted] receiving
[redacted] security
[redacted] liberality of the
United States [redacted] law, what they
considered a per[redacted] title.

2nd Where the Warrants of Survey as well as the Patents were subsequent to the Treaty of this description four or five only have been returned but others certainly exist. Some now in favor with the Spanish Officers and trusting to the temporary countenance of the Spanish Courts and Government acquiesced in by the people, and Commissioner Elliot, and Lieutenant Pope, the only Representatives of the United States there present, received titles for land, which were dated agreeable to the true time of receiving them. The number of these claims is uncertain, but said not to be numerous.

3. Where Warrants and Patents were indeed subsequent to the Treaty, both antedated so as to make them appear prior to the Treaty, altho' no claims of this kind have to my knowledge been filed, yet no doubt is entertained here of their existence. They are reported to be of great extent, and are supposed to cover much valuable land near the settlements.

4th. Claims founded on the third Section of the Bourbon County Act.

Many Citizens who subsequent to 1793 have settled and improved Vacant lands, suppose that under this Section they will be entitled to a right of preference when a Land Office may be opened. The Section is repealed by Georgia Feby 1798 See

(over)

[redacted] seem the [redacted] between that State, and
this Territory [redacted] the express [redacted] was
but partial [redacted] and that some citizens might
have made [redacted] improvements under the [redacted]
given them in the [redacted] bon act.

With resp[redacted] the aggregate quantity of la[redacted]
covered by claims under the 2d article of the compromi[redacted]
and of the like aggregate of other claims, it is impossible
for me to form accurate estimates. But from the best
lights I can procure, I do suppose there cannot be mo[redacted]
than four hundred thousand acres on the Mississippi
covered by claims justly falling under the 2d article
of the Compromise. As to the extent of private claim[redacted]
on the Mobile I can hazard no opinion, until the
returns from Washington County are received. It
however, is understood, that besides a large tract of
Pine Barren, there is some valuable lands which
remain to be disposed of by the United States.

In order that you may be more fully informed
as to the true state of land claims in this Territory, I
have forwarded all the returns, which have been made
and received carefully filed under their different claim[redacted]
among them, you will discover some claims, which can
not strictly considered be comprehended under any of
the descriptions you have enumerated. The titles [redacted]
covered by French Warrants of Survey & possessio[redacted]
without Patents may be viewed as of this kind. I
permit me to remark that the Spaces of Title [redacted]
Stream are as they stood in an [redacted] part
of Louisiana [redacted] they were viewed
at that period the Spanish Government [redacted]

(over)

custom the proprietor [redacted] to sell [redacted]
the [redacted]
[redacted] will [redacted] that a
great proportion of [redacted] in this
Territory is compos[redacted] have formed
settlements on va[redacted] the heads of families
of this description, [redacted] Simmons, Adams,
Wilkinson and Claiborne, exceed seven hundred and
their wives and children amount to upwards of two
thousand.

I do sincerely hope that these citizens may
be secured in their improvements, and that the Govern-
ment will sell out the Vacant land in this district
upon moderate terms and in small tracts to actual
settlers.—If this policy be not observed, much distress will
attend many of the settlers, and the certain effect will
be their leaving the Territory in disgust, to become subjects
in a Country, where heretofore, the most flattering invi-
tations have been offered to the poorer class of industrious
citizens, by bestowing upon every applicant, without
price, portions of the richest lands, proportioned to
(F) the extent of his family. The present farms of the settlers
would then probably fall into the hands of rich specu-
lators, either in this District, or from the United States.
Here we may boast a considerable portion of our present
population, and the further increase of our numbers
retarded by the best and most convenient spots being
monopolized by mere speculators, large tracts of un-
occupied lands. The consequence would be,
that the most valuable and important settlement
of the Mississippi River, would remain waste, and

(continued)

defensible, and [redacted] more weak and
defenceless, by [redacted] clash of
White Citizens [redacted] introduction of a free weal-
thy Character, [redacted] large endowment of negroes,
a dense [redacted] population, already formidable to
our present [redacted].

With sentiments of great respect and
Sincere esteem,
I have the honor to be
Sir
Your mos. Humb. & Ob.
(signed) Wm C. C. Claiborne

Notes.

(a) I have not received a return of the claims which have been filed in Washington County.-

(b.)- Claims have been filed by persons who were actual settlers within the ceded Territory on the 27: Oct: 1795, under British grants for 62,754 acres, and under Spanish Patents for 190,400 acres, which Patents were legally and fully executed prior to that period.-

Claims of the following descriptions have also been filed, viz:

Claims under Spanish Patents dated subsequent to the 27: Oct: 1795, by persons who were settlers at that period.- for . . . . . Acres 8,980

Claims under Spanish Warrants or Patents, by persons who were settlers in the County [illegible] 27: Oct: 1795. . for . . . . . Acres,

Claims

claims under Spanish [redacted] ...ter, 21. 203

[redacted] are at [redacted] already heads of families, who [redacted] 1795 were settled upon vacant land, and now claim a right by occupancy, under the Bourbon Acts.

There are also about seven hundred heads of families, who subsequent to 1795. have settled upon vacant land and made considerable improvements.

(H) — Should the contemplated changes in the Masters of Louisiana take place, it is not improbable but our new neighbours, with a large extent of Vacant Country to settle, may also offer great encouragements to emigrants. —

Near Natchez: Nov: 8th 1802.

To James Madison Esq.
Secretary of State

Sir,

The embarrassment of our trade at N. Orleans, still continues, private letters state, that american produce may be landed by paying a duty of 15 Cent, but not otherwise.

I have received your circular letter from the Intendant proclamation in the Spanish language I am informed that the translation, which was sent you is superficially faithful, but does not express in strength the original.

(I)

It cannot be presumed, that the Intendant would issue a proclamation without orders from his Government, the style commences that idea.

There is entertained no doubt or question that the French Republic possesses Louisiana by the course of the treaties.

I am &c

(signed) Wm C. C. Claiborne

To James Madison Esq.
Secretary of State

Near Natchez Nov: 6. 1803

I have this day drawn upon you for the sum of Eighty dollars, payable at five days sight to Ferdinand L. Claiborne, Merchant at Natchez or to his order.

This sum I paid to Samuel Gay, for going express from Natchez to Nashville, as will appear from the vouchers enclosed.

The letters which Gay, was the bearer of communicated the late proceedings at N. Orleans which being interesting to the United States, I thought it my duty to forward my dispatches by express, since at that time there was an interruption in the mail between Natchez & Nashville

I am &c.

(signed) Wm C. C. Claiborne

War Department

To William C. C. Claiborne
Governor of the Mississippi
Territory

This will be handed you by Mr. Joseph Chambers, who has recently been appointed Factor for the United States, for the Choctaw Nation of Indians, his character authorises me to recommend him to your Excellency's notice and to request that you will have the goodness to yield him such advice and assistance in the discharge of his duty as situation & circumstances may render necessary.

I have the honor to be with much respect,
Your Excellency's
Mo. ob. Serv.
(Signed) H. Dearborn

Natchez Novem. 10. 1802

Hon. Henry Dearborn Esq.
Secretary of War

Sir,

On the first instant Mr. Joseph Chambers Factor for the United States, for the Choctaw Nation, delivered to me your letter of the 9th of July last.

The goods for the Factory have arrived at [illegible] and are safely deposited; Letters they were

remain untill [illegible] for the Factory, is established and suitable buildings erected.

The aspect of affairs at Orleans, and the probability of the French taking possession of Louisiana, induce me to [illegible] may be advisable for the present to establish the [illegible] for the Choctaws, at some point on the Mississippi, or the waters thereof.

Some time ago the Mobile would certainly be the most eligible position, but it being yet uncertain how far our trade to the Mobile may be embarrassed it might be unwise at this time to engage an establishment in that quarter.

Mr. Chambers appears to be a young man of great Merit, and I shall take pleasure in giving him such assistance and advices as situation or circumstances may render necessary.

The Chactaw annuity for 1802 is arrived at Natchez, and I will take immediate measures to have it distributed.

The Citizens, who were supposed to have settled upon Indian lands, and of which I advised you in a former letter, have removed within the settlements.

I am Sir
(signed) Wm C. C. Claiborne

P.S.
Three mails are now due from Washington. I am got conducted of your order in relation to the Factory and the new garrison.

W. C. C. C.

To Silas Dinsmore Esq.
Agent to the Choctaw Nation

Washington January 11. 1802.

Sir,

[redacted] with you on the subject of your [redacted] to fulfil in your care [redacted] conveyed to the Choctaw Annuity for the year 1802, [redacted] request that you will come with all convenient speed to Natchez.

I am &c

(signed) Wm C. C. Claiborne

To Gen: James Wilkinson. Washington Novem. 16: 1802.

Sir,

In a letter from the Secretary of War, dated on the 10th of September last, I am directed to advise with you, as to the site, for establishing a Factory, for the accomodation of the Choctaw Indians:- The Factor is now at Natchez, and the goods are arrived and deposited at Fort Adams:- It is therefore advisable that the site, should be speedily determined upon and the business commenced, or the factor will loose the advantage of the fall hunt:- I had named to the Secretary a position somewhere on the Mobile, as the most eligible, and he seems to incline to that opinion, but the late proceedings at Orleans, rendering it uncertain, how far the trade of the Mobile v Mississippi, may be embarrassed, induce me to think it unsafe for the present to venture the establishment in that quarter. But on this subject I wish much for a personal interview with you, and if you cannot come to Natchez, I wish you would call at the [illegible] on your return [illegible]

[illegible]

A new p[illegible] by direction of the Secretary of W[illegible]
to be established near to the town [illegible]ing ten
and a Company stationed there.

The [illegible]ion selected, and contracted for, as
the Secretary informs me that General Wilkin
will decide and [illegible] the whole command". Ma
I ask the favor of you to detach Captain Sparks fo
this command:— You can anticipate my reasons,
my great friendship for Sparks, and the grea
addition which his small family, would be to our
little society, lead me to make this request.

The last Northern Mail brings nothing very
interesting:— The French troops are daily expected
at Orleans:

General Victor, is the Commander he brings
with him, only, three thousand men, but eight thousa
are to follow in a few months.

The enclosed letter from the Secretary of
War, to you, is the only one, which has reached me.

Mrs Claiborne unites with me in best Wishes
for your health and happiness

Yours &c.

(signed) Wm. C. C. Claiborne

P.S.

A part of Captain Sparks company is now [illegible]
near to Washington. I have suggested to the Comm
ry Office at Fort Adams, that it might be proper
that this detachment should occupy the ground
selected for the post and commence the work for
the Garrison

Sig[illegible] C. C. C.

War Department

Wm C. C. Claiborne Esq:
Governor
Mobile

[redacted] 02.

Your favor [redacted] with the enclosures
have been duly received, from the best information
I have been able to obtain, I agree with you in opi-
nion as to the most suitable place for our trading
house with the Indians, will it not be in your power,
to sound the Governor of the Floridas on the subject
of our navigating the river, until more permanent
arrangements between the two Governments can be
made. It may not be proper to intimate that we
have any doubt of the right of navigating any of the
Rivers which run out of the United States, and through
the Spanish Territory, but perhaps you may ascertain
their present disposition, by intimating that you presume
there will be no objection to our furnishing the Posts
on the Mobile and our Indian Agency at Tombigbee
thro' their Territory — If it should be determined
to establish a trading house on the Tombigbee, it will
be necessary to give directions to our Council at Orleans
to detain the goods there until the place for the esta-
blishment shall be decided on: You will please to
consult Gen. Wilkinson on the subject, to whom I
have written similar to the proper site for
land. of house &c

I write the Governor of Florida &c

[illegible] Orleans, until a decision
[illegible] General Wilkinson will
[illegible] accordingly.
[illegible] accept the [illegible]
relative to [illegible] a Post.

The [illegible] organizing the Militia, is [illegible] happy circumstance, and will undoubtedly have a very favorable effect on the Administration of your Government.

General Wilkinson will decide on the Capt.ⁿ who shall Command the Post at Natchez, I have no doubt he will consent that Capt. Sparks may be stationed at that place agreable to your request.

I am &c.

(signed) H. Dearborn

To W. C. C. Claiborne Esquire,
Governor &c.ª of the
Mississippi Territory

War Department
September 11th 1802.

Sir,

On further consideration I am of opinion that there can scarcely be a reasonable doubt of the propriety of establishing the trading house with the Choctaws, on the Tombigbee, if necessary the Military Post on the Mobile, can furnish a guard to the Store, whether the Store should be established at any considerable distance from the junction of the Tombigbee or Alabama or not, your Excellency will be able to determine: I am informed that the Indians incline [illegible]

guard being placed [redacted] the Close

Jam[redacted]

P.S. [redacted] Wilk[redacted] probably have occasion to go to New Orleans [redacted] him to sound the Governor [redacted] navigation of the Mobile. It is a subject which should be handled with great circumspection. There are some doubts whether it will be prudent to say any thing to the Governor, at all, on the subject, but it cannot be improper to endeavor by some indirect means to know the Governor's sentiments on the subject, if he has any prior to any establishing the trading house. You will see Genl. Wilkinson, before he goes to New Orleans, and will please to communicate the contents of this postcript, to him.

(signed) H. D.

To W. C. C. Claiborne Esq
Governor &c. of the
Mississippi Territory

War Department
Sep. 14. 1802.

Sir,

The Chiefs of many of the Indian nations having applied to the President of the United States, for the suppression of the sale of ardent spirits in their several nations, and Congress having authorised the President to comply with their request; - It is therefore the wish of the President that you adopt such measures as soon as practicable with due regard to particular circumstances, prevent the sale of any Ardent spirits to the natives; In order therefore to effect this object, no traders shall be allowed to vend any goods to the Indians who shall carry Ardent spirits into

(them)

their Country, for sale or other purposes and such as are now trading under former licenses shall be subjected to like regulations.

I am &c

(Signed) H. Dearborn

Natchez, Novem. 18: 1802.

To H. Dearborn Esquire,
Secretary of War.

Sir,

On the 11th instant, the Northern mails which were due, reached Natchez, and brought me your several favors of the 10: 11: and 14: of September the contents of which, I have attentively observed and shall particularly attend to.

The enclosed letter from General Wilkinson will inform you of his arrival at the Nyanza, and the preparations made to commence the retracing of the old Indian line:— My own opinion is that the arrangement adopted will fully answer the purpose and due regard of Oeconomy and expedition, is perhaps the best that could have been resorted to.

I have by letter (an extract of which is enclosed) consulted General Wilkinson, relative to the site, for the Choctaw Factory:— My letter of the 10. conformed you of the arrival of the goods:— The Choctaw Orleans, shortly after the American Depart at Fort Stoddert was discontinued and were immediately forwarded by the Natchez to Fort Adams, whereby new ones, under the patronage of the Spanish Military Agent, will be [illegible]

(10

to put the business into [redacted] so that he may have the advantage of [redacted] any thing in my power [redacted] establishment and [redacted] of the Country [redacted] Wilkinson. But [redacted] Buildings erected, the [redacted] delayed. —

* Lett[r] from New Orleans, state that the French General Com[y] [redacted] three thousand more is expected in three or four weeks and that seven thousand will follow in a month or two; also, that the Governor of Louisiana has received orders to deliver up the province — it is said the secret was told by the Governor to two or three Ladies of his acquaintance, who, have communicated it, to two or three others. —

The expected settlement of the French in Louisiana is greatly regretted by the people of this Territory.

The embarrassment of our commerce at Orleans still continues.

James

signed W. C. C. Claiborne

* This is communicated, only as common report, of its correctness I am not certain, but do still hope that it may be correct. —

Wm. C. Claiborne Esq[r]
Governor &c[a] of the
Mississippi Territory

} Camps near the mouth of the Yazoo
Nov[r] 11. 1802.

Sir,

I arrived here on the 8: inst. extremely ill & am now scarcely able to hold my pen.

Yesterday I received by the hands of Cap[t] Chambers and Lieu[t] Schenck your letters of the 3[d] and 20: ult[o] to which I beg to reply, that having received no information from the Secretary of War, respecting the arrangements under

(which)

with your Excellency, for the means necessary to re-establish the Indian boundary, which I am most anxious, that direction as the party to cooperate with [illegible] the most prompt [illegible] for the least expensive plan [illegible] or (as my judgement) can be adopted: — [illegible] some public tools, (prepared for the service now in [illegible]) public hands, and the public horses, which accompanied me to Georgia. I therefore have full belief the operation may be completed at a very inconsiderable expence, and should circumstances occur to make it necessary. I shall then crave your assistance and support. The difference in the expense of the two plans may be fairly taken at $4500. in favor of that which I feel it my duty to prefer.

The mouth of the Yazoo, which is called for as the beginning of the 2d boundary, has by a breach of the Mississippi, made through its Banks, & the consequent desertion of its ancient Bed, been shifted about six miles, which circumstance involves some difficulty, with the Indian Commissioners, and to this one more serious is added, the British Surveyor, leaves his East line entirely open, and it would seem [illegible] six miles at the beginning of his South line. The Choctaws expect to see the old line and nothing less will satisfy them. It of consequence has become necessary for me to proceed to the Big Black River, in order to exhibit to them the marked trees, and from thence to retrace the line, back as far as it can be discovered, after which I shall propose on the ground of mutual accomodation [illegible] (and if necessary) to continue the line to the East bank of the Yazoo River above the [illegible] of the Big Black [illegible] of navigation.

beginning, should I succe[illegible]
small requisition by the [illegible]
this Indian war and be e[illegible] promotion of
this [illegible] shall march for [illegible] as soon as I
ha[illegible] settled [illegible] matter and my health
[illegible] the season [illegible] giddy have incapaci-
tate me, for command [illegible] Secretary of War, at this
moment, I will therefore ask the favor of you, to transmit
him a Copy of this Journal by the next mail — I regret to find
here, the road cut up entirely neglected, and to learn that
every thing [illegible] in disorder — I must ascribe these
things in a great degree to the conduct of Col: Butler, who
has arrogated to himself unwarrantable consequence, and
instead of doing his duty, has in my judgement done
unjustifiable acts, and now under the plea of Indisposition
has gone to the North-ward, I feel for the public service
and for the discipline & subordination of the Troops
[illegible] with great respect
I am &c
your ob[illegible]
(Signed) Ja[illegible]

To. James Madison Esquire } Fort Stanley
Secretary of State of the } Novem[illegible] 24. 1802

Sir I have the Honor to enclose you a duplicate
of my letter of the 3: instant: — upon looking over
the Original, I find I was mistaken in saying "Train" received under the
British and French governments, previous to the
[illegible] I should have confined by referring
to [illegible] of this date, to the Treaty of Fort-

3

these words settlement ... gra...

these words have been inserted within

the Cede[illegible] Territory"

[illegible] return of [illegible] in Wash-

ington County [illegible] as [illegible] me.

[illegible] am &c.

(Signed) Wm C. C. Claiborne

Natchez 25 November 1802

To James Madison Esq.

Secretary of State &c &c &c

Sir,

I have the Honor to enclose you an Original Copy of a Communication together with a Translation thereof, which I this morning received from the Governor General of the Province of Louisiana, in Answer to my Letter of the 28th ult.

I am &c

(Signed) Wm C. C. Claiborne

To Wm C. C. Claiborne Esq.

Governor &c. of the Mississippi Territory

at Natchez

Most Excellent Sir

I received a few days past your Excellency's esteemed letter of the 28. ultimo in which your Excellency informs me the 12th Article of the Treaty of Peace, Friendship, Limits and

agreed upon between [redacted] to argue
[redacted] which
[redacted] any
[redacted] constructions)
if [redacted] to designate any the
[redacted] of the Mississippi
where [redacted] if the Royal pleasure does not con-
tinue the permission stipulated by the said Treaty
which entitles the Citizens of the United States
to Deposit their merchandizes and effects in the
Port of New Orleans, and you request at the same
time, as the affair is so interesting to the Commerce
of the United States, and to the welfare of its Citi-
zens, I may do you the favor to send you an
Answer as early as possible.

I can now assure your Excellency, that his
Catholic Majesty, has not hitherto issued any order
for suspending the Deposit, and consequently has not
designated any other position on the Banks of the Missis-
sippi, for that purpose: — but I must inform you in
Answer to your demands that the Intendant of the
Provinces (who in the affairs of his own Department
is independent of the General Government) at the
same time, that in conformity with the Kings com-
mands of the peace having been published in Europe,
since the 4th of May last) she suspended the commerce
of [redacted] with the United States, also in the pro-
perty of suspending the Deposit which Port he was
[redacted] to continue [redacted] until it [redacted]

to an infinitude of abuses, which were generated by contrary to the interest of the State, and of the Commerce of these Colonies, being the result of a knowledge of which he has acquired of [illegible] committee, and which he [illegible] endeavored to excuse under the pretext [illegible] ance as is manifested by a great number of causes, which now await the determination of his Majesty, as soon as they can be laid before him, not to mention many others, which have been dropt, because the parties have absconded, who introduced their properties into the deposit without extracting them and defrauding the Royal interest.

It might appear on the first view that particular cases similar to the present cannot operate against a general privilege granted by a solemn Treaty, and it is an incontestable principle, that the happiness of Nations depends in a great measure on the maintenance of good harmony & correspondence with their neighbours, respecting their rights, and promoting their own, without omitting those duties which we owe to humanity, and to the rights of civil society. But it is also indubitable, that a Treaty, altho' solemn, in order that it may be entirely valid, ought not to include any pernicious principles; and if it is found pernicious, and of evil tendency altho' it has been concluded with good faith, but without a knowledge of the [illegible] circumstances

[illegible]

in that case, it becomes necessary to annul it, since [illegible] ought [illegible] as the same [illegible] which [illegible] to repeal [illegible], than the [illegible] framed, and in [illegible] it [illegible] is requisite, that the Intendant, [illegible] expiration of the three years stipulated by the 22d: Article, and no continuance granted by the King, and after the abolition of the Commerce of Neutrals, should not chuse, to take upon himself the responsibility of continuing the favor, without express command from the King, which is also, indispensibly necessary for designating a new position on the banks of the Mississippi.

From the foregoing I trust, your Excellency, will infer, that the Intendant, who directs the affairs of this new department, independant of the Governor, will have communicated (in the regular line of his duty) to the King, his late proceedings in fulfilling your express conventions: We have reason to hope that his Majesty will adopt such measures, as may restore the Depot, either in this capital, if he should not find it prejudicial to the Interests of Spain, or in such position on the Margin of the Mississippi, as shall be agreeable to his Royal pleasure. Being confident that Justice and Generosity of his King will not deny to the [illegible] the advantage which they have [illegible] which conscious dignity and

pre-

upon the wife of none can be granted, by any particular Head of Department.

Exclusive of these principles which serve as foundation to the Intendants Instance, I ought also to inform you, I myself opposed every reasonable objection in my power to the suspension of the Deposit, until the reasons adduced by the Intendant brought to my view, that we cannot guard against all incidents, and that many of an unpriced nature may be, by a direction of time and various circumstances, it is always necessary to form a just and rational interpretation; notwithstanding these my ideas, I immediately wrote to the Captain General, in order to consult him on the business, his reply which cannot be long delayed, will dissipate any doubt which may have arisen, respecting the measures which have been adopted.

At all events, I flatter myself, that your Excellency, will continue in the firm persuasion that the most perfect and constant good Harmony having subsisted, and now actually subsists between the King, my master, and the United States of America, that on our part every endeavor for its preservation, being with reciprocal zeal and reciprocal good Offices in the observance of the Treaty most good faith entitle us to hope every [illegible] and glory of the United [illegible]

advantages of commerce, wisely and prudently conducted.

I have the honor [illegible] your Excellency [illegible] and [illegible] which I pro[illegible] [illegible] most High, to preserve [illegible] New Orleans 15th of November 1802.

I have the honor your Excellency

Your mo: affectionate Serv.t

Emanuel de Salcedo

Mississippi Legislature,

On Wednesday the 9th of December 1802, the Governor met the Legislature in the house of Washington, and delivered the following address.

Fellow citizens of the Legislative Council, and of the House of Representatives.

The uninterrupted state of peace, which has so long been enjoyed by this Territory:- the abundant harvests, which so uniformly reward the industry of the husbandman:- the progressive increase of our population, agriculture and commerce; but above all, the undisturbed possession of our religious and civil liberties, should awaken in our minds the sincerest emotions of gratitude for such signal dispensations of Almighty God.

To promote a continuance of these blessings [illegible]

is a high and important duty devolving on this Assembly, and I persuade myself, that influenced by harmony and moderation, the results of your deliberations will be favorable to your supreme object, general good.

The exertions of Officers to organize and discipline the Militia, have been accompanied with great success, and authorise a hope that this last resource of a free people, will shortly become an efficient means of defence. Experience, however, has proven, that our militia laws are still defective. Although a considerable portion of the Citizens, have manifested a great share of military ardor, and rendered the most cheerful obedience to the laws, I am sorry to say, that this laudable conduct has not been universal. The militia system should thoroughly be reviewed:- the defects which may be discovered speedily remedied and the law made sufficiently strong to command and enforce its execution. A people can never be secure in their rights, but when prepared with their own arms to resist aggression. The dangers to which our Country may be subjected, will forcibly present themselves to your reflection, and it is in a time of perfect tranquility like the present, that a wise and virtuous government should leave nothing undone towards establishing and perfecting the most certain barriers for the preservation of civil liberty, and the permanent safety of society.-

fol

I had the honor to [redacted] to the con
sideration of the Legislature the necessity
of making some provision for the
[redacted] of our youth, and deemed it
[redacted] of the rising generation,
[redacted] to this important
subject. You [redacted]sion passed an act
entitled "An act to establish a college in the
[redacted] Territory" but committed its sup-
port entirely to private contributions. Believing
myself that a support of this kind is too pre-
carious to insure the welfare of so desirable
an institution, I must solicit in its behalf,
the particular patronage of this Assembly, and
I flatter myself, such aid will be afforded, as
existing circumstances, and the extent of our
fiscal resources may admit. Permit me to
suggest the propriety of appropriating a tax on
marriage licenses, and of endowing the college
permanently with the revenue arising from
this source, and also the expediency, of soliciting
from Congress, a donation of land to this semi-
nary. The Ordinance for our government justifies
the request, and promises its success.

In contemplating the subjects of legislation
for our country, which deserve your consideration, none
for the inspection of tobacco, appeared to me of sensi-
ble. This valuable production should be watched
by the government, and placed under the
[redacted] of the law. While it remains unprotected
from

there is no security against carelessness and fraud, which being discovered in a few instances, might attach a degree of injurious suspicion to our whole exportation. We should therefore take especial care, that no cotton exported, should be of bad quality, and that its quality should be attested by some public certificate, in which the purchaser could repose entire confidence; thus would the staple commodity of this Territory, acquire and preserve a good reputation, both at home and abroad, and meet with sales so prompt and lucrative as amply to compensate for any expense which may attend its inspection.

There are other objects of a local nature which from your own knowledge of the interests of your Constituents, will engage your attention among these the state of the Court houses & jails, will doubtless be attended to. The jail for Adams district and County, is so situated and constructed that there remains no security for the safe keeping of prisoners, unless a degree of rigor is exercised which humanity forbids, and the laws discountenances.

I have every reason to believe that the existing taxes, should they be generally collected, will prove amply sufficient, to meet the current expenses of the government but to insure such collection a revision of the act entitled "An act, to ascertain what property in this Territory, shall be assessed for taxation property, and the mode of collecting" as certainly as "and paying public taxes" is essentially requisite

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A careful perusal of this act, will suggest to you the necessary amendments [illegible] necessary—. [illegible] the subject to your [illegible] parties concerned. [illegible] all [illegible] of the Legislative Council and [illegible] Representatives.

The anxious solicitude of the people of this Territory, occasioned by the difficulties, under which our commerce is placed, in consequence of the Spanish Government, withholding from the citizens of the United States, the privilege of depositing their merchandizes and effects, at the port of N. Orleans, has not escaped my observation, and it is with regret I inform you, that the last advices are unfavorable to the prospect of immediate relief. We may however rest in confidence, that on this occasion, such measures will be adopted by the executive and Legislature of United America, to promote and protect the general interests of our common Country, as wisdom shall dictate.

In the course of the session some other matters, which it may be proper to lay before you, shall be made the subject of subsequent communications.

Nothing shall be wanting on my part to facilitate the despatch of public business, and it will be to me highly gratifying to unite with you in measures calculated for the advancement of the general good.

(Signed) William C. C. Claiborne

To William C. C. Claiborne Esq.
Governor &c. of the Mississippi
Territory.

Natchez
Decr. 11: 1802.

Sir,

The County Court, for October term
appointed a Committee to examine the situation of
the Jail of Adams County. who were authorised
to make such repairs as they might deem necessary,
and make a report of the expences at the next term.
They have declined making any repairs
and say, to place the Jail in proper security will
cost the County nearly the price of a new building.
Since the Order issued, one of the prisoners, a debtor has
broke Jail and escaped. My own safety has induced
me to exercise a degree of power, which is repugnant to
the feelings of humanity.

There are now confined in Adams Jail
seven prisoners, some of whom were committed for
trifling offences.

John Wicker, was convicted of manslaughter
branded, and a fine imposed of one hundred dollars
and Cost of Court.

Daniel Ryan, if I am not misinformed
was tried at June term, sentenced to pay a fine of
thirty dollars and Costs of Suit.

Robert Fitzgerald, alias John Fitts
for grand Larceny, due in defence and Committed
confined a long time, has made his escape.

William [illegible]
[illegible] last term and [illegible]

Richard Chiras, for Larceny not tried.

Polly Dunnavan for [illegible] now much indisposed her trial was postponed for want of evidence [illegible] tried last term and sentenced to pay a fine.

You are [illegible] to observe from a knowledge of the prisoners, that neither of them are able to pay the fine imposed. The expense accumulating to the County are great, which must be eventually discharged.

The gaol is extremely insecure, the prisoners suffer much from the inclemency of the season. They are without fire, and some of them much indisposed, and no prospect of relief unless thro' the mercy of the Executive.

James

(signed) William Brooks, sheriff of Adams County

William C. C. Claiborne, Governor of the Mississippi Territory.

To all whom these presents shall come Greeting.

Whereas Daniel Ryan late of the District of Adams, was lately convicted in the Superior Court of the Mississippi Territory, for the same district of the crime of manslaughter in feloniously killing and slaying of [illegible] and thereupon the said Daniel Ryan was adjudged by the same Court among other things should be burned on the brawn of the left thumb, and pay a fine of Fifty dollars, as by the record thereof [illegible] more fully appears

Whereupon

To all to whom these presents shall come, William C. C. Claiborne, Governor of the Mississippi Territory, by virtue of the powers in me vested, and for divers good causes and considerations me thereunto moving, do hereby remit the said fine of thirty dollars, which was imposed upon him the said Darius Rogers.

In testimony whereof I have caused these letters to be made Patent and the Seal of the Territory to be hereunto affixed.

Given under my hand at the Town of Washington, the 10th day of December in the year 1802 and of the Independence of the United States of America the twenty seventh.

(Signed) William C. C. Claiborne

A Pardon in the same form as the above, and dated the 10 day of December 1802, remitting a fine of one hundred dollars imposed upon John Fricker who was convicted of Misdemeanor.

A Pardon in the same form as the above, and dated the 10th day of December 1802. remitting a fine of fifteen dollars, imposed upon James Burns, who was convicted of Assault and Battery.

The Hon.ble Henry Dearborn Esq.r
Secretary of War

Natchez
Decem.r 11.th 1802

Sir I have this day drawn a bill of Exchange upon you, in favor of Ferd.d L. Claiborne, for the sum of two hundred and five Dollars, payable at five days sight; This bill is drawn to enable me to meet the expences incurred by the pursuit of thirty three loose officers from Fort Adams to Natchez. The account and vouchers will be forwarded by the next mail.

I am &c.

Signed William C. C. Claiborne

To the Same

Natchez Dec.r 11.th 1802.

Exchange for 205 dollars

Sir, At five days sight of this my first of Exchange (second of same tenor and date remaining unpaid) pay to Ferdinand Le Claiborne, Merchant, Natchez, or his order, the sum of two hundred and five dollars and Charge the same with or without further advice to your most Ob.t Serv.t

Signed William C. C. Claiborne

Mississippi Legislature

The answer of the House of Representatives to the Governors address.

To his Excellency William C. C. Claiborne Governor of the Mississippi Territory.

We the Representatives of the people of the Mississippi Territory, have received with much satisfaction your Excellencys personal communication at the opening of the present Sessions of this Assembly

We unite most sincerely with your Excellency in offering up to the Almighty Ruler of the Universe our tribute of thanksgiving for the manifold blessings which have been showered down upon this happy Land. For whether we take into view the abundant returns with which this fertile soil, has rewarded the toil of the husbandman, the facility, with which his products (in the midst of the calamities of war) have been carried to profitable markets, or the uninterrupted state of tranquility & repose, in which he has enjoyed in possession these advantages, or the plenitude of civil and religious liberty, the diving favor is equally conspicuous and cannot fail to call forth the liveliest effusions of our gratitude.

To promote a continuance of these blessings will be the most ardent wish of our hearts, and our humble endeavors, shall be wholly dedicated, to the accomplishment of so great an object. Your Excellency has well observed, that the evils of the

(deliberations)

deliberations of this Assembly, influenced by harmony and wisdom, will be favoured with the supreme object the general good. We beg your Excellency to be assured, that on our part nothing shall be wanting, consistent with our duty, to render the session an object, as the several branches of the Legislature, a[illegible] the fullest confidence that our hopes will not be disappointed in our expectations. A reciprocity of sentiment, a spirit of conciliation and mutual accommodation, on the part of our fellow labourers, from which must result the happiest consequences to the public and to ourselves.

We shall consider it as our duty to pay particular attention to such objects as are pointed out in your communication and shall most cheerfully co-operate with your Excellency, in all measures calculated to promote our grand [illegible] the general good.

The suspension of the deposit at New Orleans for the wares and merchandizes of the Citizens of the United States, is an object of most serious regret, and if not speedily remedied, its results will be most severely felt by this Territory and by our Brethren of the Western States. We rely with your Excellency on the wisdom and energy of the general government of the United States, possessing the fullest assurance that such measures will be adopted as shall be dictated by the soundest policy.

(signed) Roger Dixon Speaker.

Representatives Chamber
December 13: 1802

Attest

Wm. Graham Clerk.

Mississippi Legislature

The Answer of the Legislature
Council to the Governors address

To

[redacted] to meet with your
Excellency, in pious and grateful acknowledgement
to Almighty God, for the uninterrupted state of
peace we have enjoyed; the abundant [redacted]
products of our soil, the progressive increase in
our population, agriculture and commerce,
and above all, for the undisturbed possession
of our liberties, both civil and religious. While
thus sensible of, and thankful for those inestimable
blessings, we are strongly impressed with the
duty which devolves upon us, of endeavoring, on
our part, as far as human exertions are required
to continue those blessings, and we trust that under
the auspices of the same divine Benefactor, our
endeavors will not be altogether unavailing.

It is highly gratifying to us to hear that
the exertions of the officers to organize & discipline
the Militia, have been attended with great success
but as we entertain all that solicitude for the peculiar
situation of our Country, which your Excellency has
indicated, it is with much regret we learn that
this success has not been universal. We shall
therefore carefully review the existing law, and
will gladly co-operate in making such amendments
as may be deemed necessary to render [illegible]
[illegible]

enforce its execution.

We participate with your Excellency in the cares for the best interests of the rising Generation, and will therefore cordially unite with you in adopting any additional measures which may appear calculated to meliorate the operation of the late Legislature for dispensing the invaluable advantages of education.

A law for the Inspection of Cotton we conceive as indispensable, this also, with the various objects of Legislation, which your Excellency has suggested to our consideration, merits, and shall receive our serious attention.

The Spanish Government with holding the usual stipulated privilege of depositing American merchandizes and effects at the port of N. Orleans is esteemed a subject of much well grounded solicitude as it materially and universally effects the Interests of the Territory. Although we possess in common with our fellow Citizens those feelings which necessarily arise from such an injurious measure, yet from the liberal indulgence which this Territory has already experienced from Congress, and from the peculiar, early and unceasing attention it has received from the present Executive of the Union, we rest with full confidence that our grievance will be redressed as speedily and effectually as possible. We wish happy to observe your Excellencys diligence and assiduity in obtaining Intelligence relative to the event and communicating to the Natchez Administrators

[illegible]

Permit us Sir to express what we continue to entertain the highest sense of your Excellency's Patriotism, and constant attention to the interests of this Territory.

(Signed) John Ellis, President of the Council

Washington
December 15: 1802

William C. C. Claiborne, Governor of the Mississippi Territory.

To the Honorable Veth Lewis, Chief Justice, Peter Bryan Bruin, Second Judge, and David Ker third Judge of the Mississippi Territory.

Whereas several persons are now confined in the Jail for the District of Adams charged with offences against the Laws of this Territory and it is deemed expedient to bring the said persons speedily to trial, I have thought proper by and with the advice and consent of two of the Legislative Council, to issue this my Commission to the said Veth Lewis, Peter Bryan Bruin, and David Ker Judges of the Superior Courts of this Territory authorising them or any two of them to hold (at the usual place of holding Courts in the County of Natchez) on Tuesday the 21st of December inst and for the District of Adams a Court of Session of the peace, Oyer and Terminer for the Trial of offenders and to hear, try and determine all

. and misdemeanors, of what nature or kind soever wherewith such Offenders or any of them shall stand charged, and to give Judgement and Sentence thereon.

In Testimony of. I have caused these letters to be made Patent and the Seal of the Territory to be hereunto affixed.

Given under my hand at the Town of Washington the tenth day of December in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and two and in the Independence of the United States of America the twenty seventh.

(signed) William C. C. Claiborne

To William Scott Esq: } Town of Washington Dec. 18: 1802

Sir,

I shall cause your appointment as one of my aids de Camp, to be notified in general orders and flatter myself, that you will for the future consider yourself as fully vested with the powers attached to that office.

I wish you to furnish yourself with all convenient despatch with a suit of Uniform and to hold yourself in readiness to accompany me to Jefferson County on the first day of January next, when I have promised to dine with the Officers of the first Battalion of the second Regiment.

You will make as many acquaintances as possible. The appointment of first aid has been conferred upon Captain Claiborne, who I have understood was the

(senior)

Senior Captain, while you were both in office in the Army of the United States.

Present me respectfully to your Lady and believe me to be, with great sincerity

Your friend

Signed William C. C. Claiborne

To Henry L. Duncan Esq.[r] Washington Decem: 18: 1802.

Sir, Yesterday, I issued a Commission to the Judges of the Superior Court, authorising them, or any two of them, to hold in and for the District of Adams, on Tuesday next the twenty first of December, "A Court of Sessions of the Peace, Oyer & Terminer, for "the trial of offenders"? — This information is communicated to you in order that you may attend and be prepared to prosecute in behalf of the Territory.

Yours

Signed William C. C. Claiborne

To Henry Dearborn Esq.[r] Secretary of War. Natchez Decem: 21: 1802

Sir On the 11th instant, I drew a bill upon you for two hundred and five dollars, payable at five days sight, to Ferdinand L. Claiborne, Merchant at Natchez, or to his order, and now enclose you the accounts and vouchers, which I presumed that

(Treasurer)

draft, in order that the accounts may be [redacted]
in the Books of the War Department.

The expense for [redacted] of the Rifles
has been greater than I expected, but they are such
as are usually [redacted]

The [redacted] which have been distributed
to the Militia, were sold at four tens dollars each,
payable in Cotton at the Cash price.— the Cotton
to be delivered on or before the first day of February
next.— No payments have yet been made.

An early acknowledgement of this letter
with its enclosures, will be to me satisfactory, I not
having taken duplicates of any of the Vouchers (viz)
the Bills of Lading and the Receipts thereon for one
Hundred and twenty three dollars Seventy five Cents

I am &c

Signed William C. C. Claiborne

The Honble James Madison Esqr.
Secretary of State

} Near Natchez
December 21. 1802.

Sir,

On the 5th instant, the Legislature of this
Territory (agreeable to law) met at the Town
of Washington, and on the 8th a quorum of the
two Houses being assembled, I delivered to them
an address, a Copy of which together with the answer
returned thereto by the Houses respectively, you
will perceive in the papers enclosed.

The Commission which was forwarded

to Mr. David Kerr, was received by the last mail and he has entered on the duties of his Office

Mr. Kerr's appointment has given much satisfaction to a great portion of the citizens and he is in my opinion a valuable acquisition to our Territorial Bench.

The Port of Orleans still remains shut against the American deposite. American produce is permitted to be received by vessels laying in the stream, but the landing of the produce is unconditionally forbidden. Indeed so rigorous is the Government in this point that in a late instance where a Cotton boat was upset by winds opposite to the Port of Orleans, there was some difficulty in obtaining permission to place the Cotton taken from the river on the Levee.

Notwithstanding the declaration of the Governor General of Louisiana in his letters to me I am firmly persuaded that the Intendants Proclamation was directed by the Spanish Court this is the opinion of some of the best informed Citizens of the United States residing at Orleans

It is believed that the French will take possession of Louisiana in the course of the Winter or early in the Spring.

I am Sir

(Signed) Wm. C. C. Claiborne

Genl Wilkinson } Near Natchez 24 Dec 1802

Sir Your letter of the 14 inst. I yesterday handed to Mr Thaumbaugh & am much gratified by the approbation of my conduct as to the Governor of Louisiana:- I hope my future acts, & my acts shall be approved of by you and others:- I have however concluded, not to publish the correspondence between the Governor and myself at present, because having transmitted it to the President of the United States it will be by him, laid before the public, if the publication be proper.

The paragraph, marked, in your letter relative to your red associates, and the difficulties you have had to encounter in ascertaining the boundary line between the Choctaws and the United States, shall be given to the public:- Its effect upon the Indians, as well as our citizens may be beneficial.

It is continued to be understood here that the French will take possession of Louisiana, in the course of the Winter, or early in the Spring, but how far this understanding may be correct I cannot say:- but it would seem from the information of your Eastern friends, that if they intend doing so, that their movements in relation thereto, must be made very secretly.

I am truly anxious to see you ~~on~~ subjects as well as subjects of public & personal interest, and no common impediments shall prevent my leaving this on the 4th of January next for the purpose of passing with you two or three days; perhaps I may set out an earlier day but then most certainly

I am &c.

Signed Wm C. C. Claiborne

To Henry Dearborn Esq.
Secretary of War

Natchez Jany 9th 1802

Sir,

I have this day drawn my draft favour Capt. James Ryan, for one hundred dollars and twenty five cents:— draft is drawn to meet the payment of a draft drawn on me by Silas Dinsmore Agent to the Choctaws, in favor of [illegible] and by him indorsed. The draft is in the following words. "Sir, it is your pleasure to pay to Brigadier General James Wilkinson or his order a hundred dollars and twenty five cents being for cash advanced for contingencies in the Choctaw Agency, and you will oblige Sir, 23d October 1802.

Your most obedient

signed Silas Dinsmoor
Agent to the Choctaws

"His Excellency
Governor Claiborne"

I deem it proper to be thus particular in my letter of advice, in order that you may be well informed of the detailed expenses of the Indian Agencies under my superintendance, expecting that to be so, will be satisfactory to you.

I have the honor to be &c

signed Wm. C. C. Claiborne

To James Madison Esq:
Secretary of State

Natchez January 3. 1803

[redacted] the enclosed hand bill [redacted] moment [redacted] it has [redacted] appearance of being an [redacted] publication.

The conduct of the Spanish Government in Louisiana is indeed extraordinary, of late their acts manifest a determined hostility to the U. States.

The violation of the Treaty, so far as it relates to the deposit at Orleans, gave rise to much agitation in this Territory, and this recent attack upon every principle of friendly intercourse, and of those acts of civility which ought to take place, between two nations in a state of peace, has rendered the ferment still greater.

We have in this part of the Territory, about two thousand Militia, pretty well organized, and with a portion of this force (say six hundred men) my opinion is, that New Orleans might be taken possession of provided there should be only Spanish troops to defend the place.

I deem it my duty to inform you, that there are in Orleans and on the Coast, a number of Inhabitants devoted to the American interest, and in the event of hostilities, would most certainly join the American standard.

I am &c

Signed Wm. C. C. Claiborne

To Wm C. C. Claiborne Esq: Gov: & Supt. of Indian Affairs
Governor &c of the Mississippi
Territory

Nov: 12: 1802

Sir,

I have the pleasure to acknowledge the receipt of your of the 6: of Sept: and to inform you, an office is established at Greenville and Doctor Shaw appointed Postmaster

I am &c
(Signed) Gid: Hunt

To the Same

Treasury Department
Comptrollers Office
Decem: 4: 1802

Sir, Your accompt for Stationery, Furniture for the use of your Office, from the 1st of January to the 30: of June 1802, has been adjusted at the Treasury and the sum of thirty seven dollars and seventy five Cents, stated to be due to you from the United States, agreeably to the accompt rendered, which will be paid under the direction of the Secretary of the Treasury.

I am &c
David Mayer
acting Compt.

To the Same

Department of State
Novem: 29: 1802

I commit to your particular attention the inclosed letter to Mr Hulings which covers others from the Spanish Minister here on the subject of the late dance at New Orleans against the deposit of American merchandize at that place. The letter to Mr Hulings is to shew that you may know the light in which the proceedings

[illegible] by the President and the [illegible] tax
in consequence of its [illegible] with the principles of
the [illegible] of last [illegible] unnecessary
[illegible]. If a [illegible] surveyance
[illegible] and particularly if the progress
of the [illegible] river should require
an immediate [illegible] wishes you to
[illegible] of a [illegible] copy.

I am &c

Signed James Madison

To William C. Hulings Esq.
Vice Consul Orleans

Near Natchez
January 12. 1803

Sir,

The enclosed letter I have [illegible] received and
from the importance of the subject referred to
I have thought proper to forward it to you by express.
The general government feels seriously the insult
that has been offered us, and will pursue the ne-
cessary measures to insure reparation for the
injuries our commerce has or may sustain. The
Executive (as I expected) views the proclamation
of the Intendant as a direct violation of
our Treaty with Spain, and has demanded
an immediate explanation from that Court.

By the return of the express I solicit your
opinion upon the following particulars, as I wish
to make a communication relative to them to the
Secretary of State.

1st Was the proclamation of the Intendant
under the direction of his Court, or did it
proceed from him in [illegible]

2d What period is it expected the Treaties

[illegible]

any, and what preparations making by the
Spanish officers, for the delivery of the Province
and finally, I pray you to transmit any
general information as to the state of things at
Orleans, which may affect the American Interest
the more particular, the more acceptable, as the m
minute matters may be of importance to our Country
I am &c
Signed Wm C. C. Claiborne

To William C. C. Claiborne Esq.
Governor &c of the Mississippi Territory

Translation of the Royal Order for the delivery
of the Provinces of Louisiana. viz.

&c I have received the following information
from the Minister of War. By a paper of the 15th
Current, the Genl Don Pedro Cevallos, informs me as
follows.

The King having ceded to the French Republic
the Colony or Province of Louisiana in its actual
extent and as it was possessed by the French when
they ceded it to his C. M. I communicate to you
the Royal Order, that dispositions may be made for
the delivery of the said Provinces to the French
Commissary or Commissaries that for such effect
shall present themselves with due authority
from the Government of the said Republic, which
Royal resolutions I have transmitted to the Capt.
Generals of Louisiana, directing him that he

(send)

was also the will of the King in what respects [redacted] Regiment, [redacted] troops [redacted] Province that Provin[redacted] Individuals that voluntarily wish to remain under the dominion of his majesty may pass / the delivery of the [redacted] being made / to the Havanna, where they will receive their dismission. I communicate to you this Royal Order, that you may concur in what respects you towards the accomplishment of this Sovereign determination. God preserve you many years.

Madrid 30: July 1802. Signed Pclus

Secr.: Intendant of the
Prov.: of Louisiana
Pr. Intrm

New Orleans December 24: 1802

Sir the preceding is a translation of the Order for the delivery of the Province, I procured the Spanish Copy from a friend, it is not yet communicated publicly by Government.

I am &c

Signed Wm C. Hellings

To William C. Hellings Esqr. Chief Clerk &c. &c. &c. Acting as Secretary, pro tem. &c. &c. &c.

January 13: 1803

Sir, I this day received your favor of the 24th Ult: containing a translated copy of the Royal Order for the delivery of the Province of Louisiana &c. &c. &c. and requesting your Commissaries that for

(over)

such effect shall present themselves, with due authority from the Government of said Republic this order to consider as official and [redacted] of material concern under existing circumstances, to the Government of the United States.

In my letter under date of the 12: ins: I communicated in detail my wishes relative to the acts of the Provincial Government at New Orleans that letter will be handed you together with this by the express.

I am &c
Signed Wm. C. C. Claiborne

To William C. C. Claiborne Esquire
Governor &c. of the Mississippi Territory

War Department
Decem: 6: 1802

Sir

Your letters of the 4: & 5th of October have been duly received, with their enclosures. The character and conduct of Wm. Mitchell, is so little known, as to render it doubtful whether any augmentation of his compensation would be proper or not. the general impressions of him relative to him as an Agent, have not been the most favorable, but if its shall appear upon further enquiry, that he is entitled to the confidence of the Executive, and that his situation and exertions will warrant an additional allowance it will be given. In the mean time, I will thank you Sir, for your opinion of him as an Agent, and on the propriety of making him an additional allowance.

The President is disposed to gratify Genl. Claiborne in his request respecting the education of his Son and requests that he may be sent to this place for the purpose.

I am happy in hearing of the recovery of your
Son &c

Dinsmoor, altho' I cannot approve of his [redacted] to the [redacted] I think he [redacted] as any [redacted] instance [redacted] that Mr Chambers will execute the duties [redacted] as Agent to the Factory with the Choctaws with fidelity and [redacted] The President is extremely anxious for the increase of population, our our South [redacted] frontiers [redacted] will give every encouragement in his power to so important an Object. It is expected that a settlement will be made this Session of Congress with the purchasers of Georgia lands, and that boundaries will be determined by General Wilkinson, will afford openings for many new settlers.

I am &c.

(Signed) H. Dearborn.

To Henry Dearborn Esq.r
Secretary of War

near Natchez
January 17: 1803.

Sir, Your Letter of the 6: ult.o I have had the pleasure to receive,

Mr Mitchell has been known to me, for several years, and I have thought him a very honest man, but of his general conduct as an Agent, I am not sufficiently informed to say, how far he has merited the confidence reposed in him for some time past, Mr. Mitchell has experienced a great share of sickness and, which occasioned inattention to his agency, He however is now restored to health and promises to exert himself in forwarding the views of the Executive, in relation to the Indians. I think it advisable for the present, to retain Mr. Mitchell in office, but the question as to the propriety of salary I should wish suspended, until the situation and operations as an Agent are better understood.

I have

Major Colbert, shall be informed, of the Presi
dispositions to grant his request, respecting his Son
and I will direct him to be sent to the City of
Washington in the Spring.

I am much pleased with the Young
and am persuaded, he will be very useful as
agent, to the former exertions and good conduct of
this Gentleman, may be attributed the progress of
civilization, among the Cherokees, and I flatter
myself his endeavors will prove a like successful
among the Choctaws.

Mr. Dinsmoor is now in Natchez, but
will set out for the Nations in twelve or fourteen
days; he will take with him the Choctaw an
nuity for 1803, and I have it in contemplation
direct his passage by the route of Orleans. Altho' t
Spanish Government have of late affected so bad
and treacherous a part towards the American
Commerce, I presume they will not be disposed to
intercept the presents for the Choctaws, and I suppose
I run no risque in sending the annuity by the way
of Orleans and Mobile. Indeed if the Spaniards
should stop the Annuity, it would not be to us
a cause of much regret, for the certain consequ
would be a loss of their influence among the Cho
taws which of late they have discovered an extraor
solicitude to preserve.

The extension of the line, remaining part to

surveyed

parallel with the Missisippi / between the [illegible]
[illegible] Choctaw [illegible] will, I suppose, be completed in twenty days. I have [illegible] decided a [illegible] General Wilkinson, and [illegible] him pro-
[illegible] [illegible] with the work. The line embraces a much larger tract of fertile land than was expected and is considered highly satisfactory, to the Nation in every manner. My visit to the General was principally from a desire to confer personally with him on the business of the Choctaw Factory. He is decidedly of opinion, that the establishment should be made on the Tombigbee, and anticipates no difficulty in making the necessary arrangements with the Government at Orleans. But his employment on the line having prevented his immediate attention to this subject, a delay in the establishment of the Factory, has been unavoidable.

Mr. Chambers, the Factor, greatly regrets the necessary delay of his business. He seems to have the welfare of the Institution much at heart, and will in my opinion execute the duties of his trust, with fidelity & propriety.

Until the site for the Factory is finally determined on, which I suppose will be done in a few weeks, I have requested Mr. Chambers to remain with me, for his assistance, which he has been polite enough to tender, I find very essential in my office, the business of which is amply sufficient to justify the employment of a permanent Clerk and hereafter I [illegible] to say

I have

that if I had permission to employ one it would conduce to the benefit of the [redacted] Service

I have received no [redacted] from New Orleans:— at the date of my [redacted] the post the remained [redacted] Deposit, and it was not [redacted] that the dem of the Sub-agent is likely to be revoked &c.

I am &c.

/signed/ Wm C. C. Claiborne

To Henry Dearborn Esq.r
Secretary of War

Mississippi Territory
Town of Washington
January 19th 180

Sir I this day bargained with Mr. Joseph Coulter for forty acres of land which includes the site which had been selected for the new post and ample supply of timber for the contemplated buildings and of fire wood for the use of the Garrison for several years.

The price p.r Acre, is fifteen dollars, which I fear will appear to you extravagant, but I do assure you Sir, that from the singular advantages which this little tract possesses:— Its contiguity to the town of Washington, the healthiness of the situation the great elegance of the site, fertility of the soil the plentiful supply of good Spring Water, the consideration p.r Acre is far from being high— Indeed I could at private sale, sell the premises for a greater sum than I have contracted to give.

The expences of the contemplated establishment

[illegible] exclusive of the land will be very inconsiderable. The hauling of the timber to the dams [illegible] team, and the necessary sawing [illegible] and putting the block houses will [illegible] by the soldiers.

General Wilkinson has ordered a company from Fort Adams, to occupy the new post, and to erect the block houses, which when completed, I shall again recommend as a proper place to deposit the spare arms and military stores, which are now at Fort Adams. Fort Adams is a barrier post on our extreme frontier, and consequently not a fit position for a large military deposit, but the new garrison is near the centre of our population and could be resorted to by the great body of the people in the time of danger.

I shall send you by the next mail a plan of the survey of the site, and I flatter myself, that the discretion I have exercised in relation to the quantity of land purchased will receive your approbation.

I am &c
signed Wm C. C. Claiborne

To James Madison Esq.
Secretary of State

Natchez
January 19: 1803.

Sir

On the 10: instant, I had the honor to receive your favor of the 29th of November last, together with its enclosures. A private opportunity not having offered, I despatched by an express on the

the letters to Wm Hulings, and I presume it has by this time reached him.

At the date of the [illegible] from New Orleans, that [illegible] to the American deposit, and it was not [illegible] that the Intendant was likely to revoke his decree I am however fully persuaded, that the serious light in which the subject is viewed in the United States: the Memorials of reparation for the injury our Commerce may sustain together with the advice from the Spanish Minister, will induce the Intendant to rescind his Edict, if it has really arisen from his own will.

The enclosed paper purports to be a copy of the Royal Order for the delivery of the Republics of France; it was forwarded to me, by Wm Hulings, and there is little ground to doubt its authenticity.

I am Sir &c.

Wm. C. C. Claiborne

To James Madison Esqr Secretary of State

Orleans Territory January 20. 1803

Sir,

I have lately received a return of the claims which have been filed in this County of Washington, general Abstracts of which I now have the honor to enclose you.

Most titles which have been exhibited in Washington County, are very incomplete. It is not believed, that any of the Citizens claiming under

Genl

Spanish sales, had obtained patents previous to October 1795, but remained in [illegible] since [illegible] lands, by virtue of an [illegible] of survey from the governor, which [illegible] commonly called in Spanish [illegible] regard to the species of title [illegible] was applicable to any date of the 5th of November, and to which I beg leave to refer you, with this additional observation, that it was not until after the conquest of Florida, by the Spaniards, that they introduced the custom of issuing patents; previous to that time a warrant of survey and possession was the only mode of Spanish conveyance, and subsequent to the period alluded to, this kind of title after three years occupancy was esteemed valid.

Abstract No 1. exhibits the quantity of land claimed under British and Spanish grants

Abstract No 2. exhibits the quantity of land claimed under British and French Patents.

Abstract No 3. exhibits the quantity of land claimed under occupancy by persons who were actual settlers within the ceded territory in October 1795.

There are also in the County of Washington one hundred and eight heads of families who have settled vacant land, and made considerable improvements subsequent to 1795.

I flatter myself to these citizens a right of pre emption will be given and I sincerely believe it would be good policy to sell the [illegible] to the actual settlers — It would be the only means of [illegible] considerable emigration to Louisiana

Louisiana from this most intimate and
inseparable part of the United States.

A letter from Mr. Richards Clerk of
Washington County [redacted] Petitions
& Claims is also enclosed

I am &c
(Signed) — Wm. C. C. Claiborne

N.B. The original papers, exhibiting the Claims of the Citizens of Washington County to their Lands are filed in my Office, it having been considered unnecessary to forward them, as their substance is selected and brought into our views, in the enclosed Abstracts, if however they should be wanted due intimation thereof they will be forwarded. W. C. C. C.

To William C. C. Claiborne Esq
Governor of the Mississippi
Territory

National Boundary
January 23. 1804.

Sir, I have the pleasure to inform you that I last evening Accomplished the Choctaw boundary but was somewhat perplexed to ascertain this Line, which is not more obvious than an Ordinary Spanish trace — to ascertain any distance from the Mississippi I shall measure two Miles on a Course until I find some clear Testimonial to satisfy me in this particular, and if not discoverable by high Waters I will search for it Adam's Hill on the 27th Inst. — To save time, and cost of Stores, I send you herewith a memorandum of Articles which I wish for the accommodation of Choctaw Commissioners

Commissioners and Guides — which I wish
you to order down to Fort Adams where the
Chiefs may be made by the Regimental Taylors
the Liberality of the — These articles being procured
there, I shall be obliged to purchase if they
are not furnished from the public goods, which
is entrusted to the care of the Executive Com-
missary — me by the Secretary of War.

I am &c

Signed Ja. Wilkinson

Memo. of Articles for the Choctaw Commissioners
and Guides, transmitted his Excellency Gov. Claiborne

2 Gilt trimed long coats, blue buff
2 Blue Capots, red Cuffs & Capes
3 white Match Coats
5 Hats
5 fine white Shirts
4 Calico — — do
5 Scarlet Leggins
5 Blue Flaps

January 23. 1803
Signed / Ja. Wilkinson
Commissioner of the United States

To General James Wilkinson, Washington
January 29. 1803

Sir

I received yesterday your letter of the 23d inst.
and am happy to learn that you have completed
the Choctaw Boundary. After you have ascertained
your distance from the Mobile and shall
have arrived at Fort Adams, I will thank you

to know

Indian Bureau permits / to give me an opinion as to the quantity of land to which the Indian claims has been extinguished.

The presents which you have required the Choctaw Commissioners and [redacted] may have well deserved. It has been out of my power to furnish them from the Goods you sent last; since among the Choctaws annuity / I never at that time / there is no clothing of the description you have mentioned, and if there were, it would seem unjust to reward the Commissioners and guides from that source, and I have no authority to appropriate this way / any of the goods destined for the factory.

I have understood that there are two stores at Fort Adams, where I presume you might purchase the articles specified in your memorandum and no doubt the cost thereof would be immediately paid to your draft by the Secretary of War. Or if you should prefer to draw a bill upon me in my character of Superintendent of Indian affairs, it will be duly honored.

In your letter of the 15: instant which was handed me by Capt: Shannon, you express an intention / after the line was completed / of calling upon me "for such aid, as might be necessary to reimburse expenses" — If you reflect it appears to me most proper that these expenses should be met by you. Otherwise, immediately

the

The Secretary at War: in as much as from any correspondence copies of which have been transmitted to the War office it appears that the expences of the Interpreter have been directed exclusively by you:

I am &c.

Wm. C. C. Claiborne

To James Madison Esquire
Secretary of State

Mississippi Territory
Near Natchez
Jany 28: 1803.

Sir,

The express which I despatched to New-Orleans, on the 11: instant, returned yesterday and brought me the enclosed packet, accompanied by a letter from Mr. Hulings, a copy of which is herewith forwarded.

It seems the Intendant is firm to his purpose and that the deposit will not be restored.

This Intendant is represented to be a man of handsome talents, and extensive fortune, that he should risque his reputation and estate by persisting in a measure of this kind without authority from his Court appears to me extraordinary.

The boats from the Westward are arriving daily at Natchez. I have understood that there are many vessels now in the port of Orleans waiting for freight, which they receive on board

board, while laying at Anchor in the Stream. But as the American Deposit, is no longer permitted, and foreign vessels prohibited from trading to Orleans, it will probably follow that few for the future will enter the River. The consequence then will be, that the number of vessels will be insufficient for the demand, and the surplus produce of the West, will be lost to our Country and to the industrious farmer. Sam[e]

Signed Wm. C. C. Claiborne.

To Henry Dearborn Esq[r] Secretary of War &c &c &c

Natchez January 31. 1803.

Sir Your circular letter of the 8th of December together with its enclosures, I have had the honor to receive, I shall give the necessary directions for carrying the Laws of Congress, you refer to, into effect and in a short time, I shall transmit you a compleat statement of the Military strength of this Territory. In my letter of the 17th of September last, I suggested the propriety of appointing a Brigadier General in the Militia of this Territory, and took the liberty to express a wish, that Col[o] Benajah Osmun the Officer at present commanding the Brigade might be promoted.

The appointment of a General would certainly tend to the perfecting of the Militia and I am firmly persuaded that if the President should confer the appointment upon Col[o] Osmun he would discharge his duty with

Zeal

with usefulness to his Country and credit to himself. If a Junior-officer of the Militia was appointed General, it would certainly create great dissatisfaction in the Brigade.

I am &c

signed Wm C. C. Claiborne

To the same } Near Natchez, February 15th 1803.

Sir, Enclosed is a Map of forty three acres of land purchased for the new Garrison. I have obtained a deed for the land and so soon as it is recorded in the proper Office, I will forward to you the Original Copy.

After the Surveyor had made an accurate calculation he found there was forty three acres included within the survey, two acres more than I named to you in my letter of the 19th ult.o

To avoid the expense of purchasing timber for the contemplated buildings, and fuel for the use of the Garrison and to secure ground sufficient for convenient gardens, and to prevent the Citizens from erecting tippling houses immediately in the Vicinity of the Fort, which invariably produces irregularities among the troops, I deem it efficient to contract for the quantity of land above mentioned.

I am &c

Signed Wm C. C. Claiborne

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To William C. C. Claiborne
Governor of the M. Territory

Fort Adams
February 18: 1803.

Sir

My incessant engagements since my arrival at this place, have prevented me earlier acknowledgement of your letter of the 7: ultimo

The sketch of the Indian commission is nearly completed, soon after which I shall transmit you a copy with a calculation of the Contents which will exceed 1.100.000 Acres.— When I addressed you on behalf of the Choctaw Guides and Commissioners, for the small presents given to them, the idea of furnishing them from the donations goods vested on the enclosed extract of a letter from the Secretary of War to me, and my reference to the goods destined for the Factory, was suggested by a desire to save the public the heavy advance of the Country on such articles. But as the amount will be inconsiderable, I have determined to furnish them agreeably to your recommendation, and when the Chiefs are Equipped will transmit you the account.

The remarks offered to you in my letter of the 15: Ultimo, respecting the reimbursement of the expenses incurred in establishing the Choctaw boundary, was founded on information received from yourself, that the Secretary of War, had instructed you to make the necessary provision for the occasion, and had authorised you to draw on him for the amount. It must certainly be considered a happy circumstance, that I could be able to

have the expenses contemplated, made to accomplish the business without incurring the least trouble to your Excellency. It was obvious, the intention of the Secretary, that the disbursements should pass through your hands, and as I have received no counter Orders, & the copies of our Correspondence were transmitted by me to the Secretary of War, in November, I think it may be fairly inferred, that no change of disposition has ensued, and therefore with the utmost deference to your opinion, I remain under the impression that this is the proper course for the business, and that it would be manifestly improper for me, to draw on the Secretary of War, without being instructed to do so. I have therefore felt it my duty to submit to you this, under another cover, a Genl. Acct. of the disbursements in question, and to make application to you for reimbursement; without which the further views of the Executive of the United States, confided to me, must be delayed, and may be defeated. I will therefore hope that you may reconsider the subject in the same light it strikes me, and that you may think proper to favor this address with much consideration and respect. I am &c

(signed) Jas Kirkpatrick

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To William C. C. Claiborne
Governor of the N. Territory

Fort Adams
February 18: 1803.

Sir, I have the honor to inform you that I have closed the account of the expenses incident to the establishment of the Choctaw boundary, conformably to the stipulations of the Treaty of Fort Adams, so far as was practicable, I find the amount to be correspondent to the within statement, which I have discharged and shall hold the vouchers for the final adjustment of my accounts at the Treasury, in the mean time it becomes essential to the further objects of Government, that I should be reimbursed the sum, and my only resort in this case is to your Excellency, who has been authorised by the Secretary of War, to provide for the occasions of these expenses. I will therefore request of you to be so obliging as to transmit me the amount of the within account, for which I shall give you duplicate receipts to be passed to my credit in the proper office.

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your most obedient humble servant
Signed James Wilkinson
Brigad. General James Wilkinson

Dr. The United States in account with

For sundry disbursements made by him, incidental to the establishment of the Choctaw boundary line agreeably to the Treaty of Fort Adams, for which he holds regular vouchers. Acct. 2,155.

Certified this 18: day of Feby. 1803

Signed James Wilkinson

To General James Wilkinson

Town of Washington.
February 23. 1803.

Sir,

Your letters under date of the 18th were duly received.

Upon mature reflection, it continues to be my opinion that the expenses of the line, should be met by your drafts immediately on the Secretary of War.

In a letter from the Secretary of War to me, of the 7th of June last, an extract from which I have heretofore enclosed you, he thus expresses himself "I wish General Wilkinson success with the Choctaws in obtaining their consent, and of which you will be informed. I have to request that your Excellency will appoint some capable person to assist him, as surveyor, and also to procure chain men, pack horses, provisions and stores on the most reasonable terms. Your bills on this Department for any expenses which you may incur in the business, will be accepted and paid on the shortest notice." It appears to me that from the letter as well as the spirit of the above quotation, I am not authorised to draw for any other than such expenses as I had either directed or incurred.

Previous to my communicating to you the tenor of the Secretarys letter of the 7th June, you had adopted a course for the establishment of the Choctaw boundary, different from that prescribed to me by the Secretary of War, and which you deemed it to your duty to prefer as being the most accordant and expeditious; your letter

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to me on this subject of the 11th of November
last & transmitted to the Secretary of War,
and at the same time expressed it as my own
opinion "that the arrangement you have adopt-
ed, would fully answer the purpose intended, and
in point of Oeconomy and expedition, was per-
haps the best that could have been resorted
to." In this opinion I am now confirmed.

Under these circumstances it seems to me
there can no difficulty arise at the War Office
in honoring your drafts to meet the expenses
incurred in establishing the Choctaw boundary
If any extraordinary of your bills drawn to meet
these expenses would afford you any accom-
dation, I will with pleasure do so: & it will
be to me always highly satisfactory, to co-operate
with you, in forwarding the public interest

I am &c

/signed/ Wm C. C. Claiborne

To William C. C. Claiborne
Governor of the Mt. Territory

Department State
January 14. 1803

Sir, I duly received your letter of the 25 Nov.
inclosing the letter to you from the Governor of
New Orleans, in which it was stated that the Intend
ant in arresting the course of our trade had acted
without orders from the Spanish Government, a
measure as contrary to the opinion of the Govern-
ment, this communication was laid before Congress by
the President. You will find by the Resolutions
of the House of Representatives herewith inclosed
the

the principles and purposes entertained by that branch of the Government on the subject of the Western rights and interests of the union. The President having then not lost sight of, with the concurrence of the Senate appointed Mr. Monroe the late Governor of Virginia a Minister Plenipotentiary and Extraordinary immediately to France, and eventually, if deemed to Spain, where he will be joined by the respective Ministers at those places in negotiations for more effectually securing and if practicable enlarging the rights of the United States on the Mississippi and the Territories Eastward thereof.

Mr. Monroe will proceed on his mission as soon as he can make himself ready for it.

From the steps which have been taken in order to effect a revocation of the prohibitory ordinance of the Intendant, it is hoped that the stipulated channel of trade is by this time again open. Considering however the importance and urgency of the case, it has been suggested to the Spanish Minister here, that as he now knows that the Intendant had no instructions from his government and has been unwilling, the effect of this notation of treaty on the records of the United States, he might immediately renew his intercourse with this place. He has accordingly

put into my hands the letters inclosed which I beg the favor of you to forward to Mr Hulings, with a Copy of this letter by the quickest conveyance; particularly in case the right of deposit should not have been re-established

I have &c

(signed) James Madison

To William C. Hulings Esq.
Vice-Consul &c.

Natchez February 18th 1803

Sir, I must ask the favor of you to deliver in person the enclosed letter to the Intendant. I have forwarded for your information a copy of a communication which I last evening received from the Secretary of State.

I am &c.

(signed) Wm C. C. Claiborne.

To James Madison Esq.
Secretary of State

Natchez March 3, 1803

Sir,

I duly received your letter of 17 January, enclosing one from the French Minister to the Intendant, which I immediately forwarded to Mr Hulings together with a Copy of yours. —

The enclosed copy of a Proclamation

matters lately issued at Orleans by the Intendant, make them to you. I owe for the steps taken to effect a revocation of the prohibitory Ordinance of the Intendant, have been fruitful. The Port is now virtually open, but much remains yet to be done, before the Trade is restored to its stipulated Channel

I am with great satisfaction of the appointment of Mr Monroe, as a Minister to negociate "for more effectually securing & if practicable, enlarging the rights of the United States on the Mississippi, and the Territory Eastward thereof". I have the highest confidence in this Gentleman's Capacity, as well as in his Zeal, for the accomplishment of his mission in its fullest latitude. —

I am inclined to the opinion that the Intendant will not immediately revoke his prohibitory ordinance, unless the last letter from the Spanish Minister to him, or other orders from his Government recently given, impels him to do so.

At the date of my last dispatches from Pensacola, the Packet had not arrived from the Havana daily expected. —

I am &c

Mr C. Pinckney

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To Henry Dearborn Esq^r
Secretary of War

Town of Warrington
March 2. 1813.

Sir

I now enclose you [redacted] of the Fort erecting near to this town, which is intended for the reception of the first Regiment.

The work is commenced, & will be completed in conformity to the Plan pointed out in your letter of the 8th of April last.

The Fort & Barracks which have been given to the new Regiment frequently furnish the Citizens, & the Officers commanding consequently subjected to unnecessary Expence, I ask the liberty to suggest the propriety of allowing Quarters Rations.

I am &c
Wm C. C. Claiborne

To Wm E. Hulings
Vice Consul. Orleans

Town of Warrington 4 March 18

Sir

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of yours of 25 Feb

The intendants decree I had received, was to be forwarded at by the last mail to the Secretary of State; that as was directed in consequence of orders from time to time my own opinion of this with you Dam in the bank not affecting the Power —

You may rely on secrecy as to your communication — Policy would dictate this not only as it regards yourself privately but also as our Government might at this time be deprived of your active services —

I am &c
Wm C. C. Claiborne

To James Madison esq
Secretary of State

New Orleans March 5 — 1803

Sir

I enclose you a letter which I have lately received from Mr Hulings, it communicates the latest Intelligence from W. Orleans —

The Western Boats are arriving daily at Natchez; our Markets are low but there is no difficulty in exporting Produce from hence to the Atlantic States or to Europe — There are many Vessels now in this Port ready to receive Cargoes, for return Cargoes, & there are Vessels now on their Passage to Natchez in Ballast, the spirit in this Country is towards exportation

I am &c
Wm C. C. Claiborne

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To Henry Dearborn Esq[r] Secretary of War | Boston Jan[y] 7th March 1809

I have here-with inclosed to you a Bill of Exchange for two hundred and thirty two dollars 52 Cents, drawn at five days sight by Benj[n] Wilkinson on Messrs Gray & Bryant of this place. I shall by the next mail inclose you the remaining eight bills drawn and the draft.

I am &c

(Signed) Wm C. C. Claiborne

To Henry Dearborn Esq[r] Secretary of War Washington | Natchez 7 March 18

Exchange for 232 52/100 Dollars

Sir,

At five days sight of this my first of Exchange (second of the same tenor & date remaining unpaid) pay to Benj. Wilkinson or order the sum of two hundred and thirty two dollars and fifty two Cents, and charge the same with or without further advice to your Obed[t] Servt

(Signed) Wm C. C. Claiborne

William C. C. Claiborne, Governor of the
Mississippi Territory

To all whom it may concern Greeting.

Whereas George Dickerson, a citizen of the State of Kentucky was lately convicted before Samuel Swan and James Donald esquires Justices of the Peace in and for the County of Adams in said Territory under the Statute of said Territory in such case made and provided, of selling Spirituous Liquor, to wit three Gallons of Whiskey to certain Indians within the limits of said County and thereupon by the same Justices was adjudged to pay the sum of one hundred and twenty dollars as a fine one half to be paid to the said Territory and one half to the informer, & likewise the Costs of prosecution, Now Know Ye that in and by virtue of the powers in me vested as Governor of the said Territory and for divers good causes and considerations me hereunto moving, I do hereby remit the aforesaid moiety of the aforementioned fine, so adjudged as aforesaid to be paid to the said Territory, and the said George Dickerson from the same and the payment thereof do forever release and acquit; the said judgment made as far as respects the fine being carried into execution according to law.

In testimony whereof I have caused these Letters to be made Patent, & the Seal of the Territory to be

to the Memorial forged

Seal of the Mississippi Territory

Given under my hand in the Town of Washington this [redacted] day of March in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred three, and of the Independence of the United States of America the twenty seventh

(Signed) WM C. C. Claiborne

1803. On the 12th day of March the Governor appointed the following Gentlemen Justices of the Peace & Justices of the County Court in the County of Washington — viz —

Ziggrie Lewis
Ransom Harvie
William H. Hargrove
James Collier
William Pierce

To James Madison esquire } near Natchez 15 March
Secretary of State &c } 1803

Sir — We enclosed Memorial & Petition from the House of Representatives of the Mississippi Territory, upon the subject of the free Navigation of certain Navigable Rivers, falling into the Bay of Mexico, from the Territories of the United States, we having thro' the Dominion of his Catholic Majesty, been required to [illegible]

to the Department of State, & I must ask the favor of you, to lay the same, before the President of the United States. —

On the 12th Instant the two Houses of Assembly elected Doctor William Lattimore of Natchez a Delegate from the Territory to Congress for two years. Doctor Lattimore is a young man of promising Talents, & a firm & genuine republican. —

On the 12th Instant the Legislature adjourned, to meet again in October next. The Laws which were passed are now in the press, & so soon as they are printed a copy shall be transmitted to you. —

I have received no late intelligence from New Orleans.

I am sir &c

Signed / Wm C C Claiborne.

To Henry Dearborn esq^r Secretary of War } Natchez 17 March 1803

Sir. I have this day drawn a Bill upon you for Six hundred & fifty five dollars, payable at five days sight to Robert Boyce, or to his order, & now enclose you the account & vouchers which occasioned the draft, in order that the account may be closed on the Books of the War Department. I am &c

Signed W. C. C. Claiborne

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To Henry Deacloom esq
Secretary &c Upon
Natchez 17 March 180

Exchange for 655 Do Dlrs

for 14 five days sight of this my first
of Exchange (second of the same tenor &
date remaining unpaid) pay to
the order of Bayce or his order, the
sum of two hundred fifty five Dollars
Exchange value received and without
further advice from me: as per Bd. Ledger

(Signed) W. C. C. Claiborne

1803 On the 19th of March, the Governor
appointed
John Girault, an Alderman
in & for the City of Natchez —
On the 21 of March, the Governor appointed
Samuel Brooks — Mayor
Samuel Neil
Joseph Newman } Aldermen
and Peter A Vanadum — Marshal
in & for the City of Natchez —
On the 22 March, the Governor
appointed
Samuel Bruin
Chief Justice of the Superior Court
for the County of Natchez. —

1803 On the 25th of March, the Governor appointed William Nichols, Sheriff of Adams County &c., William Brooks resigned.

Mr Pinkney to Mr Cheetham

Secretary of the Mississippi Territory

Department of State July 14th 1803

Sir Your Letters of the 20th & 21st December and January 3d have been duly received. The steps in abolishing hospitable intercourse between the Spaniards and the Citizens of the United States navigating the Mississippi explained in the latter, justly increase the indignation excited by the original measures of the Intendant. Still the strongest presumption is that the whole proceeding is chargeable on that officer, rather than on orders from his Government. The arrival of dispatches of November the 29th from this department will probably lead to a further development of the case, I am sorry that those dispatches had not reached you at the date of your last as I infer from the silence on that point as soon as it was rendered highly probable that not officially certain that orders had been issued by the Spanish Government to the Local authorities at New Orleans to withdraw the French Commissioners the privileges of Louisiana, the Fleur the French Minister here was called on to interpose with a view to prevent the example of the Spanish Intendant in violating engagements from being followed by the Local Occupants, too readily tendered to be so. and I now enclose a Duplicate of this letter the original having been sent by a Vessel engaged at Baltimore for the express purpose of conveying it. It will be proper to transmit the receipt of it as soon as it has been communicated to the Spanish Agent it is proposed by the President to withdraw

[illegible] that it should be addressed to the care of some Consul of New Orleans [illegible] as the Governor of [illegible] to find it more [illegible] [illegible] a Letter that was sent received from the packet of the Governor [illegible] Philadelphia will probable be with them returned to that place. I wish this may have happened Mr Hulings would no doubt [illegible] attendance to the Letter with attention of great respect, shame the Governor to be [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

(Signed) [illegible]

Brittish Consul

(C)

To James Madison esqr. Washington Sept. 11th 1803

Secretary of State } Sir [illegible] of the 11th Instant

with its enclosure reached me on the evening of the 24th Instant and on the next day I forwarded the packet for New Orleans by express to Mr. Hulings, it is reported that several French officers have arrived at Orleans and Certain information received of the sailing of the fleet with the army for Louisiana if this report be true I have heard thereof on the return of my express, but at present I do not myself give much credit to the Rumor Mr. Yrujo's Mission is highly satisfactory to most of the respectable Citizens of this Country, but there are some few Characters among those whose Standing in society & Country Conduct wits expected rather either from sensible views or sanguine temperaments reprobate the Treaty passed, and have not been wanting in certain [illegible] to influence the public and excite discontent, them a spirit of dissatisfaction. But happily the reason and sense of these men have confirmed the ascendancy of their Passions, & Effectually has been counteracted, the Intrigues in the Legislature Intrigues and misrepresentations, by efforts. Mr Daniel Clark has returned from Europe and this time in Motley [illegible] with much respect & Attention [illegible] Mr Yrujo [illegible] [illegible]